A

# VIEW

OF

# LOWER CANADA,

INTERSPERSED WITH

## Canadian Tales and Anecdotes,

AND

INTERESTING INFORMATION TO INTENDING EMIGRANTS.

BY

**ANDREW OLIVER,**

Late of Montreal.

EDINBURGH:

PRINTED BY R. MENZIES, BRODIE'S CLOSE, LAWNMARKET,
FOR THE AUTHOR.

1821.

# PREFACE.

READER,

WHEN I wrote my JOURNAL, and VIEW OF LOWER CANADA, I had not even a distant prospect that the Work would ever be called to the Press. It was written with a design to amuse my friends at home, also to bring to my own recollection periods of my life, with interesting occurrences, which might escape my memory.

I HAVE been requested, from time to time, by a numerous circle of acquaintances, to commit the work to the press. I have done it with reluctance, knowing that there are works extant of the same nature, written by men of superior qualifications; at the same time, willing to accommodate my friends, and give what information lies in my power to the intending emigrant, and those who have relations in that country, I have collected such

materials from my Manuscript, as I flatter myself will give my reader some idea of the country, the climate, soil, produce, and manners of the inhabitants. I would not be found saying any thing in favour of my own productions. If any should reap a benefit, my design is so far accomplished. I am aware that there are many imperfections in the work. The discerning critic, I hope, will not be over censorious.

The borrowed passages are taken from respectable authors, and I hope will prove a source of entertainment.

The Poetry, with the exception of the two first pieces, which are published at desire, is original.

A. O.

*Edinburgh, October,* 1821.

# CONTENTS.


| | Page |
|---|---|
| Departure from Greenock, - - - | 1 |
| Journal of the Voyage, - - - - | 2 |
| View of Quebec, from the River St Lawrence, | 6 |
| Conquest of the City and Provinces, - - | 8 |
| View of the principal buildings, &c. - - | 14 |
| Anecdote of Canadian Superstition, - - | 15 |
| French Baker, a Tale, - - - - | 18 |
| The English Officer and a beautiful Nun, a Tale, | 19 |
| View of the surrounding country, from Cape Diamond, - - - - - | 21 |
| Fall of Mont-Morrancie, - - - | 24 |
| View of a Wonderful Narrow in Connecticut River, - - - - - - | 26 |
| Voyage upwards from Quebec, - - - | 29 |
| Various Incidents, - - - - - | ib |
| Arrive at Montreal, - - - - - | 41 |
| First Ship Launched, - - - - | ib |
| View of the Town, - - - - - | 42 |
| The Markets, - - - - - | 43 |
| Bears, how kept during winter, - - - | 47 |
| Indian Boy, - - - - - - | 48 |
| The Yanky and his Lady, - - - | 49 |

Page.

An Uproar upon account of Spilling an Old Lady's Holy Water, - - - - - 52
View of a Company of Indians, - - - - 53
Canadians—their dress, customs, &c. - - 55
Sketch of the Method of Drawing Maple Sugar, and preparing it for use, - - - 56
On Rafts, &c. - - - - - - - ib.
View of the Country, from Montreal Mountain, 60
Excursion to Grant's Island, - - - 62
A Fine Mill, - - - - - - - ib.
Thunder Storm, - - - - - - 65
Excursion into the Forest, - - - ib.
Approach of winter—Customs of the Country, 80
Snow and Ice, - - - - - - 81
Remarkable Darkness at Montreal, - - 84
Earthquake—an extraordinary one, - - 85
Falls of Niagara, - - - - - 93
Departure from Quebec, - - - - 109
Journal of the Voyage, - - - - 118
Storm at Sea, - - - - - - 119
Arrival at Greenock, - - - - 120
A Word to Intending Emigrants, - - 121

# CONTENTS.


| | Page |
|---|---|
| The Vision, | 3 |
| Elegy on John Hasty, | 6 |
| Spiritual Song, | 12 |
| Wilds of Canada, | 14 |
| Thunder Storm, | 15 |
| Elegy on Robert Hasty, late Town-piper of Jedburgh, | 18 |
| Address to Fortune, | 22 |
| Address to Poverty, | 25 |
| An Enlightened Heathen on receiving a Bible, | 29 |
| Gospel Progress, | 31 |
| A Missionary's Farewell to Britain, | 32 |
| On Providence, | 34 |
| The Times, | 36 |
| Lines to the Memory of the Rev. John Robertson, late of Jedburgh, | 39 |
| To a Friend, | 40 |
| The Two Yankies, | 44 |
| Epitaph in Memory of the Rev. James Fletcher, Late of Liddesdale, | 48 |
| A Pig in a Pock, | 49 |
| The Taxes, | 52 |

Page

Epitaph to the Memory of Margaret Rutherford, of Jedburgh, - - - - - - 56
The Man of the Bush, - - - - - 57
Epistle to a Friend, - - - - - - 60
The Converted Heathen's Address to his Idol, 63
Epitaph to the Memory of J. F. - - 65
Address to King George III., - - - 67
Friday Night, - - - - - - - 69
On Two Children, - - - - - - 72

Page
herford, -
- 56
- 57
- 60
Idol, 63
- 65
- 67
- 69
- 72

A

# VIEW

OF

# Lower Canada.

On the first day of July, 1804, we went on board the brig Emily, at Greenock, bound for Quebec and Montreal, in which we found sixteen passengers, including four children, who were all busy in arranging their affairs for the voyage. We dropt gently downward, and cast anchor about a mile below the town. Next night lay opposite a small village called Lamlash. The following day we passed the Mull of Kintyre, and in a short time got a view of the north of Ireland. A pretty strong breeze sprang up, and almost our whole company were attacked by the sea-sickness, which made our situation very disagreeable for a time. I began to write my Journal on the 20th, but found

myself very ill accommodated for the undertaking, my chest served me for a table, and my mattress for a seat. Being in the steerage, I was daily annoyed with the noise of the children, and the general clash of tongues. Crammed up in a corner, I had no light but what the hatchway afforded; even that I was often deprived of by the passengers; for having nothing to do, they were continually in motion.

While our native land appeared in view, the eyes of all were directed towards it. Now on the western ocean, bounded by sky, the eye seems to invite another land, though far distant. The parting struggle, which seemed to pervade the whole, subsiding by degrees, we began to amuse ourselves with the prospects before us, and endeavoured to make ourselves as comfortable as possible. On the 30th, when at supper below, we were alarmed by a loud cry of "All hands on deck." Terror-struck, we hastened up the hatchway, but our panic still increased on beholding our captain and whole crew in a state of agitation, and a large ship less than a league to the leeward, which they supposed to be a French privateer. She fired twice, but our captain showed no inclination

to strike. Having passed us, she fired a third time, but finding us unwilling to lie to, she began to tack about. Expecting to be made prisoners, the passengers put themselves in their best apparel, that they might appear more respectable before the enemy. Amongst our number we had an old Highlandman and his wife, who seemed most alarmed. They had a bag of money, consisting of some gold, silver, and a considerable quantity of counterfeit halfpence, which probably was their all. After they had spent some time in hiding it amongst the lumber in the hold, they came upon deck, and, in a plaintive tone, told the captain, "That they wanted to go out of the town immediately." "Go down below," said he, with an oath. I could not help smiling at their ignorance, for at this time we were some hundred miles from any land. The enemy's vessel, in endeavouring to tack, had missed her stays, fortunate for us. We immediately set every sail, and being favoured with a good breeze, and approaching night, escaped.

Not long after this we were becalmed. The surface of the deep was smooth as glass, and when the sun shone, had some resemblance to

melted lead. On the afternoon of the same day, we were visited by three grampusses; they came so close to the side of the vessel, that one might have touched the back of the farthest with the top of an ordinary fishing-rod. They were twenty-five feet in length, and lay very near the surface of the water; in half an hour they left us, directing their course north-east. This calm was followed by a thunder storm. In the dusk of the evening the cloud appeared upon the edge of our horizon, the lightning seemed to rise out of the water; when the cloud got higher they became more vivid, and very terrific—the peals were loud and frequent. Fearing every moment that the electric fluid, attracted by the iron, would strike the vessel and endanger our lives, we passed some time in great anxiety. After a sharp shower of hail the storm abated, and we were relieved from our distress.

On the 7th of August, we were boarded by two officers of the Charlestown packet, bound for Liverpool. On the 10th we reached the outer banks of Newfoundland, soundings ninety-six fathoms. On the 11th passed two schooners at anchor in forty-five fathoms water. In a

little we were becalmed, and amused ourselves by fishing; caught a few cod, and a great number of dog-fish, the skin of which is used to polish wood, and answers some other useful purposes; they were in general about two feet in length, and might weigh from six to nine pounds. As we had eaten nothing but salt beef and biscuit in the passage, and of course were in need of fresh provision, we boiled some of these dog fish, which are not used but in cases of necessity, and to us, in our present circumstances, they were delicious enough.

When engaged in this manner, we were gratified with the sight of land, which was an agreeable object. They were the high lands of Nova Scotia. We entered the Gulph of St Lawrence on the 12th, where we were detained a long time by contrary winds. Caught abundance of mackarel—passed several beautiful islands—and on one called Green Island we landed. Understanding that it was inhabited by a family of the name of Grant, from Scotland, we strolled in various directions, but saw no person. After tacking about ten days in the Gulph, we got into the River. Here we took our pilot on board. At the lower ex-

tremity of the Isle of Orleans, we had land on both sides in view, and small farm houses at intervals. On the 25th of August we had a fine prospect of the Fall of Mont-Morrancie, distant about eight miles. In its fall over the precipice, it resembled snow falling from the roof of a house in a thaw. Having passed Point Levy village and church on our left, we immediately got a view of the City of Quebec on our right hand.

This city, when viewed from the River St Lawrence, a mile distant, wears a most romantic appearance. The hill, or rather the rock, upon which that part of the city fronting the river is built, is so rugged and steep, that the houses appear as if standing one upon the top of another.

The spires of the different churches, which over-top the other buildings, being neatly covered with tin-plate, immediately catch the eye as it rolls over the promiscuous whole. The astonishing height of the rock—the strong fortifications, with the guns pointing in every direction, these on one hand, with the thundering cataract on the other, strike the surprised stranger with awe. At noon we cast anchor

opposite the Lower Town, and went ashore; having been seven weeks and four days from Scotland, and eight weeks from Greenock.

The Province of Quebec is calculated at six hundred miles in length, and two hundred in breadth; and lies between 61 and 81 degrees west longitude, and 45 and 52 north latitude. "Quebec, the capital of Canada, as well as of all the British dominions in North America, is situated in 47 degrees north latitude, and 71 west longitude, upon a rugged eminence at the confluence of the St Lawrence and St Charles Rivers. It is estimated at four hundred miles from the sea. The rock upon which it stands is a composition of marble and slate. The foundation of the city was laid in 1608; at that time the River St Lawrence is said to have reached the base of the rock, but has gradually receded, leaving that space of ground completely dry upon which the Lower Town is built, which, in consequence of its situation, became, and still is a favourable residence for merchants and mariners, and is now of considerable magnitude."

The fortifications of Quebec are irregular but strong. The Lower Town is defended by

two bastions, level with the water at high tide. A little above, to the right, is half a bastion, cut out of the solid rock; this bastion is overlooked by a large battery, and still higher arises the most regular of all the fortifications. It is of a square form, and contains the Governor's house, which, of late, has been considerably improved. In 1806, the wooden palisade which encircled the east quarter of the city was removed, and a strong stone wall built in its place. From the rock fronting south-east, immediately below Cape Diamond, a projecting battery of wood, containing four large guns, has been lately erected. The bulwarks, batteries, and the walls, are in excellent repair, and are considered to be proof against any attack. Within the city there are seldom fewer than two regiments of regular troops, besides one hundred of the Royal Artillery. The different stations in and around the city require no less than forty soldiers on constant duty.

" Quebec was attacked in 1759, by the British under General Wolf, who fell gloriously, at the moment victory had crowned his heroic exertions. The Americans attempted to retake it in 1775, but were repulsed with the

loss of their gallant commander Montgomery. The hostile aspect which the United States have lately assumed toward Britain, has caused considerable improvements be made on the fortifications around the city.

" The conquest of Cape Briton opened the way into Canada. An English fleet entered the River St Lawrence in June, 1759. No sooner was it anchored at the Isle of Orleans, than eight fire ships were sent off to consume it, but the captains who conducted the operation set fire to their ships too soon, and the assailants were delivered from the danger.

" The British flag soon appeared before Quebec. The banks of the river were, however, so well entrenched and defended by troops and redoubts, that every attempt to land cost them torrents of blood, without gaining any ground. They had persisted for six weeks in these unsuccessful endeavours, when, at last, they had the good fortune to land unperceived. It was on the 12th of September, an hour before the break of day, three miles above the town. The French army, consisting of six thousand men, was already drawn up in order of battle, when it was attacked next day by a

corps considerably inferior. For some time ardour supplied the want of number; at length the vivacity of the French yielded to the resolution and power of the English. In the hour of victory, the intrepid Wolf fell a victim to the service of his country.

" The French who survived the battle retired ten leagues from Quebec, which capitulated soon afterwards. The army hastily completed some entrenchments at the place of retreat; here they left a body of troops sufficient to stop the progress of the enemy, and proceeded to Montreal, to concert measures to cancel their disgrace.

" It was there agreed, that in the spring they should march out with an armed force against Quebec, to retake it by surprise, or if that should fail, to besiege it in form. Though the colony had long been in dreadful want of every thing, the preparations were already made, when the ice, which covered the whole river, began to give way toward the middle, and opened a small canal; they dragged some boats over the ice, and slipped them into the water; the army fell down this stream with inconceivable ardour. On the 12th of April,

1760, the British thought they still lay quiet in their winter quarters. The army landed, and was just arrived at an advanced guard of fifteen hundred men, that were posted three leagues from Quebec, when an unfortunate accident disconcerted the whole scheme. A gunner, in attempting to step out of his boat, had fallen into the water; he caught hold of a flake of ice, climbed up upon it, and was carried down the stream. As he passed Quebec, he was seen by a centinel, who, on observing a man in distress, called out for help; some of the garrison flew to his assistance, and found him motionless. They knew him by his uniform to be a French soldier, and carried him into the Governor's house, where, by the help of spiritous liquors, they recalled him to life for a moment; he just recovered speech enough to tell them, that an army of ten thousand French was at the gates, and expired. The Governor immediately dispatched orders to the advanced guards to come within the walls, with all expedition. Notwithstanding their precipitant retreat, the French had time to attack their rear, and a few moments later they would have been defeated, and the city retaken. The

assailants, however, marched on with intrepidity, which seemed as if they expected every thing from their valour. They were within a league of the town, when they were met by a body of four thousand men, who had been sent out to stop them. The first onset was sharp, and the resistance obstinate. The English were driven back within the walls, leaving eighteen hundred of their bravest men upon the field, and their artillery in the enemy's hands. The trenches were immediately opened before Quebec, but as there were none but field pieces—as no succours arrived from France—and as a strong English squadron were coming up the river, they were obliged to raise the siege, and retreat from post to post to Montreal. Three formidable armies surrounded these troops, which were reduced by frequent skirmishes and continual fatigues, and were in want of both provisions and warlike stores.

"These miserable remains of a body of seven thousand men were obliged to capitulate, and for the whole colony. The conquest was confirmed by a treaty of peace, and this country increased the possessions of the British in North America."

In Quebec there are two market places, which are commonly called the Upper and Lower Market, the one being within the city, which is termed the Upper Town, the other near the wharf, in the Lower Town. The principal days are Monday and Friday. These markets are well supplied with the produce of the country, but inferior to the grand markets of Montreal, of which we will have occasion to speak in the course of the work. The streets are irregular, some of them remarkably steep and crooked. Mountain Street, which connects the Upper with the Lower Town, is formed from the solid rock, of difficult access, especially in winter. Here you descend into another by wooden steps, where, in a deep storm, the snow is equal to the eaves of the buildings, and the inhabitants are obliged to cut a narrow alley by the front of their houses, on each side of the street, to admit the light and get access to one another. In general, the streets in the Lower Town are narrow and unwholesome.

The city is not so confined, being exposed to the free air. St John's, which is the principal street, is pretty level, but the houses are low, and upon account of the materials of which

they are built, and the little ingenuity displayed in the workmanship, they exhibit but a mean appearance. In a niche, cut in the corner of a house in this street, stands the statue of General Wolf, pointing to the spot where the British army were encamped, immediately before the city was taken. The houses within the walls, and those of the Lower Town, are built of stone dug from the rock, which, being of a limestone nature, is reduceable by fire; should the internal part be consumed, the walls must be razed. The roofs are mostly of wood, lap-boarded, or covered with shingles.

The principal building is the Governor's house. Its situation renders it very pleasant, standing upon that part of the rock immediately above the wharfs, it commands a prospect unequalled by any in Quebec. The English church is a modern building, with a beautiful spire covered with tin-plate. There are no other buildings worthy of notice.

In Quebec there are six places of worship or churches. Four of these belong to the Catholics—Church of England—Church of Scotland. There are also a few dissenters, but their number is small. The inhabitants being mostly of

French extraction, this language is in general use, and the politeness, civility, and gaiety of that nation has infused itself into the prevailing manners. These qualities, however, are not accompanied by proportionate liberality and knowledge. The Canadians, particularly the lower orders, are generally ignorant; few of the men can read or write, the little learning among them is confined to the women. A Canadian seldom takes any step of importance without consulting his wife, by whose opinion he abides. Both men and women are remarkably superstitious, and blindly devoted to their priests, who seem to have an absolute sway over them. The following instance, from a late writer, I take the liberty to give my readers, as a specimen:—

"On the evening," says Mr Wild, "before we reached Quebec, we stopt at the village of St Augustine Calvaire, and, after having strolled about for some time, returned to the farm-house where we had taken up our quarters for the night. The people, who had cooked some fish that had just been caught while we had been walking about, and every thing being ready on our return, we sat down to supper by

the light of a lamp, which was suspended from the ceiling; the glimmering light, however, that it afforded, scarcely enabled us to see what was on the table. We complained of it to the man of the house, and the lamp was, in consequence, trimmed. It was replenished with oil, taken down, set on the table, still the light was very bad. "Sarre Dieu," exclaimed he, "but you shall not eat your fish in the dark." So saying, he stepped aside to a small cupboard, took out a candle, and, having lighted it, placed it beside us. Now all was going on well, when the wife, who had been absent for a few minutes, suddenly returning, poured forth a volley of the most terrible execrations against her poor husband, for having presumed to have acted as he had done. Unable to answer a single word, the fellow stood aghast, ignorant of what he had done to offend her. We were quite at a loss to know what had given rise to such a sudden storm. The wife, however, snatching up the candle and hastily extinguishing it, addressed us in a plaintive tone of voice, and explained the whole affair. It was the holy candle, "La chandelle benite," which her giddy husband had set on the table. It had

been consecrated at a neighbouring church, and supposing there should be a tempest at any time, with thunder and lightning ever so terrible, yet if this candle were but kept burning while it lasted, the house, the barn, and every thing else belonging to it, were to be secured from all danger. If any of the family happened to be sick, the candle was to be lighted, and they were instantly to recover. It had been given to her that morning by the priest of the village, with an assurance that it possessed the miraculous power of preserving the family from harm, and she was confident that what was told her was true. To have contradicted the poor woman would have been useless. For the sake of our ears, however, we endeavoured to pacify her, and that being accomplished, we sat down to supper, and even made the best of our fish in the dark."

Although these poor deluded people are careful to obey their priests in certain punctilios, yet their leaders are not over conscientious in their charge. The profanation of the Lord's day is nothing thought of. Gaming and dancing is much practised in and around the city, seemingly without restraint, and many vices

over-looked. Indeed the Sabbath seems to be over when public worship is ended.

Residing in Quebec almost twelve months, I got acquainted with several Canadian families, where I sometimes passed a winter evening. They are extremely fond of hearing and relating wonderful adventures. They consider the taking of Quebec to be a desperate attempt, and relate wonderful stories of that achievement, and circumstances immediately connected with it. Being seated by the stove, one evening, an old Canadian being requested, we were amused with the following relation. "After the British had taken Quebec, a French baker was employed to furnish the garrison with bread. An English officer, from the first supply which he presented, took a loaf, and gave it to his dog, while the store lay for distribution among the soldiery. Whether moved to this from suspicion or mere chance, is not said, but the poor animal, after eating the loaf, was suddenly seized with convulsions, and died in apparent agony. The fatal effects of this induced those who were the witnesses of it to make a further trial of the loaves upon other dogs, and they shared the same fate. The baker was

apprehended and strictly examined, and he confessed that he had infused or mixed poisonous ingredients in preparing the bread, with a design to poison the garrison. It was strongly suspected that others were in the plot, but he could not be prevailed upon to mention any accompliees. The case being clear, sentence was passed upon the baker, "That his own oven should be heated hotter than usual, himself thrust into it, and there roasted alive," which sentence," said the old Canadian, "was quickly put in execution."

After our old gentleman had trimmed his pipe, and emptied it, the stove being also supplied with a stick or two, and the general clatter hushed, he began again. "An English officer of rank, one day, when walking by a convent in the Upper Town, chanced to cast his eyes upon a young lady, who, at the time, was looking out at a window. She was beautiful—his attention was caught, and likewise his affections—but in consequence of her retired situation, it was with the greatest difficulty that he found means to open a private correspondence with her. Being a nun, she was daily under the inspection of her ghastly visitors,

whose severity upon the slightest offence she no doubt dreaded. However, a private correspondence was carried on, and the fruits of it began to appear. The holy fathers, inflamed with rage, were determined to dispatch her out of the way, and she was condemned to the flames, the punishment of those who are guilty of fornication within the Holy See. Being acquainted with this their design, she found means to apprise the officer with her awful situation, who went immediately to the holy fathers, and, in a civil manner, demanded her of them, but they stoutly refused, at the same time denouncing vengeance against her. The officer, who little expected to meet with such treatment, ordered out a party of soldiers, drew them up in front of the convent, and sent this short message to the fathers, 'That if the lady that he had demanded was not delivered up without delay, he would burn the nunnery over their heads, with all that appertained to it.' This message, and the manner of delivering it, with a view of the English soldiers under arms, wrought powerfully. They delivered her up, at least the persons sent had free liberty to take her away, although they themselves made

their votaries believe that she was wrested from them by force. Whatever might be the consequence afterward, she was sent over the water to Point Levy, and soon after to England."

There are a number of respectable merchants in Quebec, whose stores are considerable. Upon articles imported from Europe, they expect 50 *per cent.* but seldom reach it. Cotton goods are cheap, and many other articles are nearly as low as they can be purchased in Britain. The markets are in general well attended, both summer and winter—butcher meat is low. Fire wood brings a good price, when we consider the immense forests which surround the place. But when we take a view of Montreal markets, the price of every article which there meets the eye shall be given.

Before we leave Quebec, let us take a view of the surrounding country. Cape Diamond, the highest part of the hill or rock upon which the city is built, is said to be four hundred feet above the surface of the river. Standing here, the vessels, in coming up to the wharfs before the Lower Town, seem as if they were coming under your feet. From this eminence the whole City of Quebec falls under the eye.

The great St Lawrence rolling in majesty—St Charles, one of its small tributaries, silently joins its little stream, almost unperceived—while thundering Mont-Morrancie throws itself over the tremendous precipice, bolting upon the light of the distant spectator. After St Lawrence River passes Quebec, it divides itself into two branches, the strongest current bends toward the east, and is that which the ships come up and go down. The other branch takes a northern direction, spreading itself about two leagues. This has rather the appearance of a lake; and in a fine summer evening, like a vast mirror, you may behold the various tints of the sky, as well as the images of the different objects on the banks, which reflect a lustre inconceivable. The southern banks of this branch of the river, are indented fancifully with bays and promontories, which remain nearly in a state of nature. But the opposite shore is thickly covered with houses, extending along in one uninterrupted village, seemingly as far as the eye can reach. On this side, the prospect is terminated by an extensive range of mountains. The flat lands, situated between the villages on the banks, not being visible to

a spectator at Quebec, it appears as if the mountains rose directly out of the water, and the houses were built on their steep and rugged sides. The horizon, under the eye of a spectator upon Cape Diamond, though not very extensive, contains beauties perhaps unparalleled in any country. "The scenery," says Wild, "that is here exhibited, for its grandeur, its beauty, and its diversity, surpasses all I have hitherto seen in America, or indeed in any other part of the globe. In the variegated expanse that is laid open before you, stupendous rocks, immense rivers, trackless forests, and cultivated plains, mountains, lakes, towns, and villages, in their turn strike the attention, and the senses are almost bewildered in contemplating the vastness of the scene. Nature is here seen on the grandest scale, and it is scarcely possible for the imagination to paint to itself any thing more sublime than are the several prospects presented to the sight of the delighted spectator." However, it may be remarked, that beautiful as this scene may appear to an attentive observer, there are many who discern not its beauty. People who land here from Britain, are generally too much engaged with

their own private concerns, and labour under too many personal difficulties, to enjoy the prospects afforded by the country around them, and so pass from place to place, like a criminal conveyed from one county to another. The emigrant who has been pent up in a ship for eight or ten weeks, whose small fund has been exhausted in defraying the expence of his passage, lands upon the shore of this new country. With little to encourage him for the future, care and anxiety prevail over curiosity. He views the variegated scene, but, void of contemplation, his eyes just roll over the beauteous whole, and he quickly turns to inspect the outlines of his own situation. Sometimes, indeed, the beauties of his native soil, however steril in comparison, shut his eyes. Like a man with his head down, he sees all things the wrong way.

In March 1805, I set out to see the Fall of Mont-Morrancie; but the St Lawrence being broke up, I went by the wooden bridge across St Charles, and along the banks. Arriving at the top of the Fall, I felt the ground to shake considerably. Upon account of the melting snow, and breaking up of the ice, the river was

much swollen. Large fragments of ice, trees, and brush-wood, came floating downward, and, increasing in velocity as they approached the Fall, went over in a moment, and for a while disappeared in the bason below. The noise of this rocky river is entirely lost in the tremendous roar of the cataract.

Down from the forest wild, the copious flood
O'er rocks in rapids roll, toward the verge,
The frightful precipice, where tumbling o'er,
With horrid crash, " doth shake the country round."

Creeping cautiously forward, I beheld the amazing scene from top to bottom, a perpendicular height of no less than two hundred and forty feet. Near the verge of the fall stands a small wooden house. It was built on purpose to accommodate visitors, I understand few choose to venture into it; from this the cataract is viewed advantageously. The water, soon after leaving the precipice, is broken by projecting rocks, and assumes the appearance of snow; should any person be so unfortunate as to fall within the power of the cataract above the fall, he must inevitably perish; the bason below is form-

ed of rocks, from which the river flows gently toward St Lawrence. For grandeur and beauty, this fall is said to be superior to any in America. Here I must beg leave of my reader to introduce a description of a wonderful narrow in Connecticut River. " This river is five hundred miles long, and four miles broad at its mouth, its inner banks, or channel, is half a mile broad, it takes its rise from the white hills in the north of England, where also springs the river Kennebec, about five hundred rivulets, which issue from lakes and drowned lands, fall into it, many of them are larger than the Thames at London; in March, when the rain and sun melts the snow and ice, each river is overcharged, and kindly hastens to overflow, fertilize, and preserve its trembling meadows, they lift up enormous cakes of ice, bursting from their frozen beds, with threatening intentions of plowing up the affrighted earth, and carry them rapidly down the falls, of which there are five, the first sixty miles from its mouth. In its northern parts are three great bendings called cohosses, and about one hundred miles asunder, two hundred miles from the sound there is a narrow of five yards only, formed by

two shelving mountains of solid rock, whose tops intercept the clouds; through this chasm are compelled to pass all the waters, which in time of floods bury the northern country. At the upper cohos the river then spreads twenty-four miles wide, and for five or six weeks ships of war might sail over lands that afterwards produce the greatest crops of hay and grain in America. People who can bear the sight, the groans, the tremblings, the surly motion of the water, trees, and ice through this passage, view with astonishment one of the greatest phenomenons in nature. Here water is consolidated without frost by pressure, by swiftness between the pinching sturdy rocks, to such a degree of induration, that no iron crow can be forced into it; here iron, lead, and cork, have one common weight; here, steady as time, and harder than marble, the stream passes irresistable, if not swift as lightning, the electric fluid rends trees with no greater ease than does this mighty water. At high water are carried through this strait, masts and other timber, with incredible swiftness, and sometimes with safety, but when the water is low, the masts, timber, and trees, strike on one side or the

other, and though of the largest size, are rent in one moment into shivers, and splintered like a broom, to the amazement of spectators. The meadows for many miles below are covered with immense quantities of wood thus torn in pieces, which compel the hardiest traveller to reflect how feeble is man, and how great that mighty being who formed the lightning, the thunder, and the irresistable strength of waters.

Between two sturdy rocks, whose towering tops
Asunder tear the burdened wintry cloud,
Swift flies Connecticut, whose marble brim
Bears through with lightning's speed the lofty pine,
Or dashed against each side with thundering roar,
In splinters strew their wrecks alongst the shore,
Majestic flows this adamantine flood,
To shew poor feeble man the power of God.

No living creature was ever known to pass through this narrow, except an Indian woman, who was in a canoe attempting to cross the river above it, but carelessly suffered herself to fall within the power of the current; perceiving her danger, she took a bottle of rum which she had with her and drank the whole of it, and then lay down in her canoe to meet her des-

tiny; she marvellously went through safely, and was taken out of the canoe some miles below quite intoxicated by some Englishmen; being asked how she could be so daringly imprudent as to drink such a quantity of rum with the prospect of instant death before her, the Squaw, as well as her condition would let her, replied, "yes, it was too much rum for once, to be sure, but I was not willing to lose a drop of it, so I drank it, and you see I have saved all."

Quebec being, as was observed, the key of the country, ships of every description land at it, and most part of them disload their cargoes. Goods for Montreal are put aboard smaller vessels, of which there are a great number employed during the summer months. Passengers generally go up in sloops, or steamboats, the fare to Montreal is two dollars, and if the wind be favourable, a sloop makes the voyage in forty-eight hours; a steam-boat is the more certain conveyance, but none sail in the night.

On the 20th of May I embarked on board a small sloop for Montreal, which is one hundred and sixty miles from Quebec. Nothing can be more pleasant than a voyage up the St

Lawrence at this season of the year, nature was now lavishing her beauties upon the wondering eye, and every thing bespoke the approach of summer. The river at Quebec is nearly a mile broad, being confined by the steepness of the banks; in sailing upward you have a fine view of the houses on the banks of the river on each side, lying contiguous, they appear at first sight to be one continued village. The grounds are laid out in such a manner, that each farmer has the advantage of the river to bring down his grain and wood to market, and to improve the fishing season, the farms being narrow in proportion to their length. About a mile upward from Quebec, the river has a quick bending to the north-west, and as its banks are steep and rocky, you immediately lose sight of the city and harbour; here it is said to be upwards of thirty fathoms deep, above this it spreads wide, and its channel is very intricate. Every vessel must have a pilot on board, who hath a thorough knowledge of the channel, who is entrusted with the sole charge of the vessel. The pilot is guided by certain land-marks, which are only to be seen in broad day, they

must cast anchor during the night, though the wind should even prove favourable; some have paid dear for their folly in attempting to sail during the night. At every six or eight miles you meet with a Church, either on the right or left side of the river, there is also cupolas and crosses to be met with by the way side, of which notice shall be taken afterwards. Forty miles above Quebec we came to anchor for the first night and when morn appeared we were becalmed; availing ourselves of this favourable opportunity of visiting the neighbouring farmers, five of us passengers made a motion to go on shore in the boat which belonged to the sloop, viz. two Lieutenants, Englishmen, who were going up to Montreal to join their regiment, a young woman, my wife, and myself. The river here is four miles broad when the tide flows, having reached the shore on the west side of the river, we fastened the boat, and made towards the nearest house. A woman presented herself, who desired us, in the French language, to step in, we asked her, in English, if she could accommodate us with a bason of milk and some bread. "Je n'intens pas," I do not understand, returned she; mus-

tering all the French we were masters of, she at length understood, and cheerfully answered our demand. Having refreshed ourselves with this wholesome country cheer, and strolled about a long time, at sunset we made towards the boat, which we were surprised to find at a considerable distance from the water, and half buried in sand. The tide had retired, we attempted to drag her forward, but she only wrought deeper into the sand, and every effort proved fruitless; upon observing this, and the approach of night, one of the Lieutenants sent forth a volley of oaths and imprecations, which lasted for a considerable time without intermission; after this storm was over we made another attempt by running her forward upon the oars, with much labour we got her afloat, and gained the sloop, which we had almost lost sight of. Next morning, being in the same situation, our Captain, who was a Canadian, and acquainted with many of the farmers on the banks, purposed to accompany us ashore on the eas tside, and after breakfast we went down into the boat; this day we were joined by two American merchants, who were also passengers, the one a native of New York, the other of

Boston, they had been trading at Quebec, and were on their way home. Pulling ashore, we landed near the foot of a precipice; here we were met by a young man, and two young women, Canadians, (one of whom played a sort of tambourine,) who conducted us to their cottage. While we were partaking of what the house afforded, the neighbouring peasantry flocked in, and gazed with looks of admiration, minutely inspecting us one by one. Knowing by our dress we were English, they enquired of the Captain where we were bound for, who replied, Montreal, upon which old madam asked her daughters if they would go with the English, "ah oui," answered they, smiling; "Oh, ho! c'est bon," said their father, pulling his pipe from his mouth. They shewed us every attention, conversed with freedom, and, so far as I could judge, were honest, industrious people. Their houses were clean, and every thing neat, considering their furniture, which seemed mostly of their own manufacture. After paying for our refreshment, we walked along the highway, and came to one of the Crosses erected by the Catholics. It is a piece of wood, about ten or twelve feet long,

having a cross head of four feet, and painted black, standing close by the way side. On approaching it, our Captain did reverence, by lifting his hat, and bending one knee ; the two young women followed his example. We were surprised at their superstition, and they as much at our nonconformity ; but to attempt to convince them would prove useless, so we passed on, leaving them muttering out their devotions. Here we saw several of the men ploughing their grounds. The ploughs in use were small and slender, compared to the Scotch plough, and had two wheels, which seemed to facilitate the movement. Their yoke was two horses. They paid little attention to streighting the furrows; but turned over the soil in a careless manner, which seemed soft and easily wrought. Their harrows are in form of a triangle. The whole of their implements were coarse, and very little ingenuity is displayed in the workmanship. We entered the forest, and employed some time in gathering what the Yankies call Canadian balsam, which bursted from some of the trees, like large drops of gum. Here were hundreds of fallen trees, rotting amongst the under growth, and thousands of

snakes in the swamps. Being grievously annoyed with musquitoes, we returned towards the shore of the river, but the rest of our companions had gone aboard the sloop, which was a mile distant. Perceiving a small canoe upon the beach, we launched her. I went aboard and set myself in the bottom, and the Yanky set to work to gain the sloop. I took up another paddle to assist, and leaning over the side of this narrow vessel, in a moment she upset, and plunged us both over the shoulders in the river. Having recovered ourselves, we caught the canoe, which was floating, bottom up. Standing up to the middle, I was doomed to hear a great variety of new coined oaths, branded with being water sick. "In the name of wonder, how comes it to pass, after crossing the great Atlantic ocean, to get sick on a fresh water river?" It was needles to reply, yet I could not help smiling at the fellow's patience in lengthening out his harangue, by exclamations, exhortations, and instructions! Had there been any spectators near, I am certain they would have laughed heartily at the scene. It was lucky we were within our depth, for none of us could swim. After putting in

stones for ballast, and many promises on my part to sit steady, we boarded again, set off, and reached the sloop. A canoe of this kind is wrought out of the solid tree, with considerable labour, ten or twelve feet in length, and will admit only one person in breadth, but will carry three or four. The paddle is about five feet long. The canoe is more expeditious than the boat or batteau.

Next day we had a gentle breeze, which changed our situation but only a few leagues, for we were again becalmed before night, and also the two days following; and, since we could not make forward, we were resolved not to loiter on board. At ten next day, when preparing to go ashore again, the Canadians and Yankies upon the deck, ready to step into the boat, we were alarmed with a shrill cry of "O, help, help!" I ran up, and, looking over the side of the vessel, saw the young woman passenger hanging by a rope with both hands near the stern, and her body half under water, the boat drifting downward with a boy in her. Seeing there was no time to lose, I caught hold of the next rope, coiled it, and threw it to the boy, calling, at the same time, to the poor

woman to hold fast. Having pulled up the boat, the woman was taken in almost speechless. While I held her she fainted, and some time elapsed before she could be taken up into the sloop. She said that she went down to the boat to secure a good seat, but the boy too hastily and imprudently loosed the rope which fastened it to the sloop, and of course it drifted; the woman perceiving this, caught a rope that accidentally hang over the stern of the sloop, and suffered the boat to get from below her. After this fright, she never could be prevailed upon to go on shore. Notwithstanding, five of us went to the west bank, which we found steep and rugged. Looking around us, we spied a creature ascending before us about the size of a fox, which we pursued. One of the Yankies, a little a-head, stopt all of a sudden, "O ho! my stinking friend," said he, "I know you, it is the skunk, let us avoid it." No sooner had he spoken, than the noisome effluvia, arising from the matter which it had squirted abroad from its bushy tail, was felt. "I know a gentleman," continued he, "who lost a suit of new clothes by this stinking devil." Proceeding downward, we came to a fine mill, which was driven by a

small stream. The miller, being an Englishman, received us kindly; after showing us the machinery, we were hospitably entertained in his house.

Next day, we went ashore on the east side of the river, and wandering downward, came to a cupola, supported by four pillars of wood, in which hung a fine image of our Saviour upon the Cross, which gave a striking representation of his sufferings—we gazed upon it with admiration. As soon as we had entered the dome, the Canadians kneeled and began their devotions. We felt considerably affected by the solemnity of the scene, and some of us could not help observing, that such representations might have a good effect, provided idolatry were out of the question. Below the feet of the image a small iron chest was placed, to receive the offerings. Entering the next farmhouse without any ceremony, we were surprised to find it furnished after the English fashion. Every article was of a superior kind, yet still the consecrated pine branch, holy water, and other fragments of popery, made their appearance. Here we purchased eggs at fourpence per dozen.

Although the country upward from Quebec is beautiful, and the soil in general good, yet there are very few English settlers to be found until you pass Montreal. Almost the whole of the lands along the banks of the river, on each side, are occupied by French Canadians, who seem happy in their situations, retain their ancient customs, and speak their own language. Their houses, which are of wood, are in general clean and comfortable, and the land cleared in front and backward, as they find convenient.

Having a fair wind, next day we reached Trois Reveirs, or Three Rivers, a small town upon the west bank of the St Lawrence, at the confluence of three rivers; each of which appears larger than the Tweed. The Indians come down these rivers in July and August, bringing with them furs, which they sell and barter with the merchants. In exchange they receive cloaths, hardware, rum, and trinkets, of which they are extremely fond. The situation of Three Rivers is pleasant, of easy access, and it carries on a good trade. The inhabitants are mostly Canadians, and some English. A manufactory of carron ware is carried on in it, to a considerable extent. The number of the houses

may be estimated at nearly two hundred. The influx of the tide to this place, which is four hundred and eighty miles from the ocean, proves what a level country the river runs through. The lands in general rise gently on each side, and afford pasturage close to the river.

Leaving this place, we arrived at Lake St Peter, which is fourteen miles long and twelve broad. In summer it is so shallow, that the most skillful pilot finds much difficulty to bring a heavy vessel through it. We passed two ships aground. Their crews were toiling in their respective boats to drag them into deeper water. At this lake the tide ceases. We fell in with several Indian canoes, and at night had much lightning, with thunder.

Lying at anchor in a place much confined with wood, we were infested with a grievous swarm of musquitoes, which pestered us so much that even under the bed clothes we found no shelter from their venomous fangs. Next morning we were covered with red spots, which felt hard, and were very painful.

On the 4th of June, we anchored opposite a small town called Sorrel. This town, which is

fifteen miles from Montreal, was founded for the Loyal Americans, in 1787. It contains about one hundred houses. Their principal trade is ship-building. Here the River Chambly falls into the St Lawrence.

Next day, about noon, we arrived at Montreal, and just time enough to see the Dunlop, a beautiful merchant ship, launched, which, we were told, was the first that had been built here since the conquest. An Indian from the upper country, who had never seen so large a canoe, as he called it, could not conceive how it was possible to get her into the river. That he might satisfy his curiosity, he watched two days, and had the pleasure to see her descend in majesty, amid the shouts of some thousands of spectators, who also feasted their eyes upon the scene, perhaps as new to them as it was to the savage Indian.

Montreal is five hundred and sixty miles from the sea, and the river is navigable for ships drawing fourteen feet water. Upon account of the rapids, no vessel larger than a batteau can pass this place. The town stands upon a gentle eminence, of easy access on all sides. The walls are entirely demolished, but

some of the gates are still standing. It appears to have been a place of strength, to defend against the incursions of the savages. We are told that when the King of France examined the accompt of building and materials, the sum appeared so vast that he asked "If the walls of Montreal were built with dollars," although, in those days, the stones were led from the quarries, in the neighbourhood at three halfpence per cart load. The streets are open and regular, compared with those of Quebec, and, during the summer, kept remarkably clean. The chief buildings are the Court-house, College, English Church, and the High Church, which belongs to the Catholics. The town is one mile in length, and the inhabitants are estimated at ten thousand, the suburbs included. Since the late destructive fires, no person is allowed to build a log-house within the gates. Owing to the want of free stone, the modern buildings, though substantial, have but a mean appearance; yet the stones, which are a kind of lime stone, by much labour are wrought into rebats, lintels, cornices, &c. There is plenty of lime, which is sold at five shillings a load. The sand is flat, more suitable for the plasterer than

the mason. There is a particular sand bank a quarter of a mile from the town, above forty feet deep; in this sand is a mixture of small shining particles of a gold colour. The walls of a room, when polished with the trowel, appear elegantly spangled; but these particles are so thin and light, that they cannot be separated, nor felt between the fingers. Besides the buildings mentioned, there are three Catholic churches, the Church of Scotland, a dissenting meeting-house, and one belonging to methodists.

Let us now view the markets, which are said to excel any in America. These hold on Monday and Friday, but the latter is the principal day. The two squares in which they hold are called the upper and lower market place. In the first of these are sold fire-wood, hay, &c. The wood which meets the readiest purchaser is maple, ash, elm, and oak, with several other kinds of hard wood; no person will purchase fir for fuel. The body or trunk of the tree is cut into lengths of two feet, and split. For a cart-load they commonly ask *5s*, but the price depends much upon the present demand. However, the Canadian will not sell his hen in a rainy day. "How much for that load,"

said an old Irish lady to a young Canadian, "Je ne vous intend pas," returned he, "I do not understand you." "God bless me child, what do you say." "Parlez vous Français, Madam,"—"Do you speak French, Madam." "No, no, no, I'll just give 3s and a glass of rum, so follow me to St Paul street." "Sacre Dieu," exclaimed he, shaking his head. However, the load was bought for 3s 6d. It is difficult to conclude a bargain without a little French, as you seldom meet with a Canadian who understands English.

Before you can reach the centre of the lower market, by St Paul street, you must press through between two long ranges of carts, loaded with the production of the country. Wheat, flour, Indian corn, potatoes, pork, mutton, live sheep, geese, turkies, ducks, chickens, &c. with a nameless variety of articles of country manufacture. Amongst these rush-bottomed chairs, for which they charge 5s for half-a-dozen, and plaster laths, of which I saw a cart-load sold at 2s 6d per thousand. Approaching the square, the next scene is the vegetable market. Here are cabbages, melons, cucumbers, fruits in their season, apples, pears, cur-

rants, cherries, &c. Around the square the butchers retail their meat in open sheds. Beef 2d, mutton 3½d, and pork 5d and 6d the English pound. My attention was caught by a soldier and a Canadian butcher. "How much for your beef a pound, friend?" "Quatre sous, monsieur." "I know nothing about your cat sow, cut me two pounds of steak." "Du livres, mastier, ah oui, bon beef, bon beef!" "Give me none of your *bones*, friend." "No bon, sacre!" Here a boy volunteered his services as an interpreter, so the matter was amicably adjusted.

On the east, toward the river, is the fish market, but salmon and trout are rarely to be met with. Amongst the various other kinds of fish which come here in plenty, the shad claims the preference. It resembles the salmon, and in June and July, which are the only months it is to be caught, is remarkably cheap. A fish, weighing six, seven, or eight pounds, may be bought for 3d; it is excellent eating, and many barrels of them are put up for winter. They are caught in nets in the river, and are brought in by the country people in carts, covered with green branches. There is also a plentiful sup-

ply of cod. In winter codlings are sold at 3d and 4d the forpit; how they are got, at that season, I am not certain.

The leather merchants and shoemakers, from the country, stand by the wharf. The leather is much inferior in quality to that manufactured in England. The shoes are mostly of the light kind, and are sold about 4s a pair. Mogozeens, which are only worn by Canadians, are cheap. Besides these, the Indians furnish a superior kind, beautifully indented with porcupine quills. They also bring to market a variety of birch vessels, of curious workmanship. I was accosted by an Indian woman, who had moor-berries in a basket for sale; she had upon her back an infant, which appeared to be about two or three weeks old; this child was fixed in an upright position, in a box resembling a small coffin, by means of belts, its feet were bent inward, which is their custom. The cries of this little creature would have melted the heart of any but a savage.

Among other varieties exhibited in Montreal markets, we may remark what is there called bear beef. Butchers purchase bears in the fall, and bury them under snow during winter, their

method is this. A box, or puncheon, is provided, large enough to hold the animal, and allow him to rise and turn at pleasure. Being placed in a convenient place in the court-yard, the bear is put in, chained, and a little straw thrown in as bedding. A hole is bored to admit air from the top, into which a stick is thrust, and the whole buried beneath eight or ten feet of snow, which being firmly beat together, the stick is drawn up, and there the animal is lodged for at least three months, and when taken out, is fat, and fit for market. In this manner the bear lives during winter, without meat or drink. It is said they live by sucking their — I went along with an acquaintance to see him give air to his animal in the yard; he mounted upon the heap, and thrust down the stick, I heard it moving its chain, and to convince me farther, he made it roar, by pushing it with the stick. It is necessary to keep the air hole clear, from which you can perceive the breath of the animal to ascend in a clear day.

In winter, milk is brought to market in small ice cakes, packed in baskets or boxes; in purchasing 2d worth, you are complimented with a

little straw to keep it from slipping through your fingers. I purchased a dressed mutton, which weighed about thirty pounds, for a dollar, and, following the example of other people, hung it in a situation exposed to the air, to save salting it; in a short time found it quite hard, so that I was obliged to saw it like a board, piece-meal. The taverns contiguous to the market, are generally crowded; the chief drink is grog. Rum is sold in the shops at 15d, and wine, called black strap, at 10d per bottle, but in public houses at double cost. Brandy and gin are dearer, ale 6d, cider 3d, and spruce beer 1½d per bottle. Canadian sugar, which is drawn from the maple tree, is brought to the market in cakes, and sold at 5d and 6d per pound. Tobacco sold in the leaf, but twisted like ropes of straw, and coiled up, may be purchased very low. I saw a coil, weighing eight pounds, bought for 6s; but that which is manufactured in Britain is preferable.

Strolling through the market one day, I saw a crowd of people around an Indian boy, who, with a bow of the description used by those of the upper country, showed his dexterity as a marksman. At the distance of about twenty yards he split an apple, which was stuck upon

a rod; this he did repeatedly, when several of the lookers-on gave him a half-penny, and a loud cheer. An arch rogue of a monkey, that sat upon the sole of a garret window, with a pipe in his mouth, (on purpose, I suppose, to mock the Canadians, who seldom go without one) to augment the general roar at every huzza, threw over upon the crowd a pitcher of water, which some wag handed him from the inside.

Before we proceed further, I shall notice a strange spectacle which happened a short time before. A roving Yanky brought down a young lady from one of the neighbouring states to see Montreal. After they had spent the day in dashing about, he mounted his horse to return home, but his partner found herself at a loss, as no person volunteered their services to assist her in getting behind him. Spying a large cask near, she mounted upon it, but while the Yanky was employed in turning in his crazy horse, down went the end of the cask, and in a moment the poor unfortunate creature was immersed to the middle in treacle—then ran the laughing crowd from every direction. The Yanky alarmed, and fearing the consequences,

for the liquid flowed over copiously, clapped spurs to his horse, and rode off; upon which the woman raised a lamentable cry of "Jonathan, Jonathan, if you do not come back and free me from this molasses cask, you shall never inherit my precious body." He was stopped by some persons—returned—and, after a squabble with the merchant to whom it belonged, with the kind aid of some bystanders, the lady was extricated, and a porter prevailed upon to carry her upon his back to the next public-house, who was followed by a large assemblage of roguish boys, who licked their lips as they went along.

A spacious market place is now cleared, which was formerly the site of a French College, at the head of which a monument in memory of Admiral Nelson is erected. Montreal is the chief residence of the North-west Fur Company. The inhabitants, as at Quebec, are mostly of French extraction, but the number of English, particulary North British, is greater, and they occupy many of the principal houses; these are mostly merchants and mechanics. As the fuel is hard wood, care is taken of the ashes, which give a good price, and are collected by

men sent out for that purpose by manufacturers of potash, which is considered a staple commodity in Canada. An old man, blind of one eye, one of these collectors of ashes, had a cart, which was drawn by two dogs of a middle size, harnessed after the manner of cart horses. These dogs would draw no less than ten or twelve stones of ashes in bags, and where the way is level the old man rode above all, lashing up the poor animals with his whip, and encouraging them with his voice to proceed. One day, I witnessed three butchers' dogs drawing a cow towards the market, on a sleigh; and was told that a gentleman travelled from Montreal to Quebec in three days, in a carryol drawn by one large dog. There is nothing more common in the winter season than to see dogs employed for such purposes. Horses and cows are of the middle size; the former generally bring a good price, but kine are low. I purchased a young cow in the market for eleven dollars, at the same time, three pigs of six weeks old, at 7½d each, which I fed for some time upon refuse, melons, and cucumbers, &c. which I found in my garden.

Being a mechanic, I was employed by a cer-

tain French gentleman, of great power and respectability, to repair some of his rooms; when about to begin at a sitting room, which belonged to the old lady his mother, the pictures were removed, a number of pine branches, which time out of mind had been sprinkled with holy water, were bundled up, and carefully carried away; after which we came to a large wooden frame of ancient workmanship, covered with glass; "this" said the gentleman, "belonged to my grandfather, it is very valuable; these are fragments of the bones of different popes, who lived at such a period, and at such a place, you see they are fixed carefully against the back of the frame with silver chains, but still," continued he, "they are like other precious relics subject to decay." Having cleared the room of these trumpery, and just about to commence work, I espied a small leaden cross, with the image of our Saviour upon it, hanging against the wall, which I took carefully down and laid in a bed; a little boy, who stood bye, perceiving this run down stairs, and in a moment the whole family were about me, amongst the rest old grandmother, wringing her hands and almost breathless, crying, "Mon Dieu! mon

Dieu !" My God ! my God ! I could not conceive what had given rise to this uproar. I asked the boy, who spoke a little English, what was the matter, "O!" said he, "you have spilt all grandmother's holy water," I was confounded. "Did you not know," said the gentleman, lifting up the image from the bed, "that this small chest, pointing to the bottom of it, contained holy water." "No." "I suppose you did not," continued he, "nor do you know the proper use of it; well, it is a pity, grandmother is very bad about it." "I am sorry for spilling it," said I, "but I knew nothing of holy water being there. I laid it in the bed as a place of safety, until you got it removed to a convenient place." "Well, well, I must go to the priest, and tell him the accident, and request a little more. Come down stairs, I see you are concerned, we will have a glass of grog; I know you English will be careful not to spill a glass of grog."

About midsummer the Indians come down the river in birch canoes, with furs of different kinds, which they sell and barter at Montreal. One day when returning from seeing a ship launched, I saw a crowd of people, went up to them, and was surprised to find them Indians,

and mostly naked. Some of their chiefs were with them, who were clad in calico, and their heads ornamented with feathers of divers kinds. They appeared to be military men, but had no arms, only two colours and a sort of a drum, upon which one of them beat with a stick. The common men wore a small piece of cloth fixed around the middle to cover their nakedness. Their bodies were painted, and for ornaments they had counterfeit half-pence hung at their ears and noses. Rum and tobacco are articles they are very fond of, and often spend their all on these. But now the English law forbids any to sell them liquor exceeding a certain quantity. These, and the Canadians, our allies, make but a poor appearance as soldiers. I witnessed a review of a party of the Canadian militia a few days ago at this town, which brought to my recollection a story I have heard of one somewhat similar. "Attention," cried their officer, "he who hath stockings and shoes stand in the front, he who hath shoes but no stockings, stand in the rear, he who hath neither, stand in the middle."

The dress of a Canadian is coarse grey cloth, undressed, and of their own manufacture. The

coat is long and wide, which they lap over, and tie about their middle with a sash of red, green, and yellow; trowsers of the same, and brown mogozeens. Instead of a hat, they wear a red cap hanging to the shoulders. The women also follow their own passions, and are very careful to cultivate the growth of their hair, which they plait double up, and fix with a comb. Whatever pride they may have, it does not appear in fine cloaths. In winter, the common people wear great coats, large mitts, and socks over their shoes. Those in a superior station, walk abroad in furs. A gentleman in his great coat, muff, and tippet, with socks over his boots, or wrapt up in bear skin, dashing along the streets in his carryol, might draw the attention of the crowd in Edinburgh, but in Montreal and Quebec, nothing is more common. The children are healthy. Being inured to the climate, they bear the extremes of heat and cold much better than the emigrant. Their diet is Indian flour boiled with milk, for breakfast, fresh soup with bread, at mid-day, and tea or coffee toward the evening. They rise betimes. At five in the morning I have frequently seen some of them almost naked, sit-

ting at the door, devouring bacon and garlic with greediness. Labourers, who are sometimes at a distance from home, often make a dinner of bread, mapple sugar, and butter.

Before proceeding farther, I shall give you a sketch of their method of drawing this sugar, and preparing it for use. In the month of March, when the sap begins to ascend the tree, when the days are clear, and the nights frosty, the Canadian commences his sugar harvest. Parties of English, prompted by curiosity, make excursions into the bush to see their operations. Four of us, having provided ourselves with a little brandy, set out, and with some difficulty, owing to the deepness of the snow, arrived at a place where this work was going on. We found a boy, who was employed in collecting the juice from a great number of trees which had been pierced. At the root stood a vessel of wood, containing a quart, more or less, which he emptied into a pitcher, and carried to a large kettle, suspended from the branch of a tree, underneath which a moderate fire was burning. A sufficient quantity being thus collected, was boiled a considerable time, during which it was scummed frequently. Being sufficiently

boiled, it is then put into a trough or cask, having a hole at the bottom to drain off the molasses. This done, they put it into such vessels as they have at hand, where it hardens, and is brought to market in cakes. A quart of the maple juice, with a proportion of spirits, makes an excellent drink. In July and August an immense quantity of wood is brought down the river in rafts. Oak always claims the preference, staves in general meet with a ready purchaser. Besides various kinds for mechanical purposes, much fire wood is brought down the country in rafts, and those whose circumstances will permit, can purchase from the raft at a much easier rate than can be done in the market. As rafts differ greatly in dimension, and one kind of wood is more valuable than another, so the prices are more or less. A good raft will bring its proprietors fifty dollars. Some of these come a long way. The wood is cut in winter, when the hands of the husbandman are bound up from agriculture. If his property is extensive, and his circumstances good, he employs a number of hands, sends them into the bush a considerable time, finding them in victuals. The first object attended to

by these men, is to pitch upon a place where the kinds of trees intended to be cut, may be easily dragged to the water; this done, they erect a temporary wooden house, in which they deposit their provision, and other necessary articles. This poor hut, with a thick blanket for their covering, is all the defence they have against the extremity of winter nights. Their hours of work are from sunrising to sunsetting. Each must cook in his turn, and their allowance is flour, beef, rum, &c. After sunset they kindle a large fire, having secured the door, lie down around it upon the floor, smoke, and talk three or four hours, then renew the fire, draw close to each other, and resign themselves to sleep. Many of them are excellent workmen; it is astonishing to see how quickly they go through their work of cutting down and squaring trees of great diameter. When the snow is very deep, to keep a large tree from sinking, they fell two or three small ones across the way of its fall. The rafts are built close to the water, so that when the river swells they get afloat. A large raft must have eight or ten men upon it to conduct it safely through the rapids; and should the voyage be long,

they erect a temporary hut upon it for shelter, and cooking their victuals. In approaching the rapids of St Louis at Montreal, every man must stand by his oar. Passing over swift as an arrow, the right hand men immediately ply their oars, to turn the head of the raft towards the wharf, then a general plunging of oars commences, and every nerve is strained to get out of the current, which, in spite of every exertion, often sweeps them quite below the town, and, of course, it becomes a losing concern to the proprietors, upon account of distance. Wheat and flour is floated down in a similar manner, in a large vessel called a skow, the flour in barrels, and the grain in bags. Were it not for the benefit of this great river and its tributaries, the upper country farmers would never be able to bring their produce to market, and doubtless be obliged to dispense with the want of many necessary articles of merchandize.

Having taken a view of the town and markets, let us now extend the prospect. The island of Montreal is twenty miles in length, and ten in breadth. It is formed by the junction of the St Lawrence and Ottaway rivers, a part

of the latter falling into St Lawrence at the head of the island, the greater branch taking a northerly direction, joins it nine miles below the town. The soil is fertile, especially that which lies contiguous to the rivers. Montreal mountain, celebrated for its beauty, is westward from the town two miles; it is entirely covered with wood, even upon its top the trees are full as large as those that grow around its base. To view the surrounding country, I ascended by the east side, and with much difficulty reached its summit. Here I had a horizon of at least one hundred miles in diameter, under my observation. Casting a glance northward, over the Ottaway, or grand river, instead of feeling enlivened by the prospect, a certain degree of horror chilled my spirits. The nameless variety of trees, at this time clothed with leaves and blossoms, present a beautiful scene in the immediate neighbourhood of the mountain. This disappears, and the eye rolls over a seemingly trackless forest, resembling the surface of the ocean when agitated with a strong breeze of wind. So small a proportion does the cultivated part of the country bear to the whole, that it is entirely buried from the sight. How

vastly different is this from the landscape which burst forth upon the delighted spectator upon Arthur Seat, or Eildon hills. Turning from the joyless scene, I could not avoid exclaiming, "Who would be so foolish as to leave a civilized society, and drag out his days in this wilderness?" However, the eye is quickly relieved by a prospect towards the south. The glittering spires of Montreal, the orchards, the farms, and the cottages, with the majestic St Lawrence, all combine to engage the attention, and elevate the mind, which is not only delighted in the contemplation of the diversified scene, but in the certain knowledge that men, many of whom were reared in a civilized country, are the lords of the soil. Descending on the south side, I alighted by chance upon the tomb of the late Mr M'T——, one of the North-west Company. It seems he chose this for his last retreat. Between the skirts of the mountain and the town, there are many rich gardens and orchards. Walking along a foot path, I alighted upon a snake of a lively green colour. From its attitude, it seemed inclined to dart at me. I understand there are many of the same kind about the rocky parts of

the mountain, and are accounted no less dangerous than the rattle snake.

My next excursion was across a part of the river to a little island, commonly called Grant's Island. It is certainly a most delightful spot. Near the centre of it stands a handsome house, which is the summer retreat of the family. And a little westward, a fine garden. The shrubbery seems to encircle the whole island. The internal beauties of this spot are entirely hid from the spectator; standing upon the wharf at Montreal, he sees only a clump of trees, which appears like a detached part of the forest. But what is most worthy of notice, is a flour mill, upon the north extremity of the Island. The miller being a Scotchman, cheerfully shewed us the machinery. Of eight pair of stones, four were at work at present. The method of supplying the different hoppers with wheat, is by tin boxes or cannisters, fixed at convenient distances upon a broad leather belt. This belt is turned by a pinion near the roof, and another in a trough on the ground floor, which contains the grain. The empty cannisters in turning amongst the grain, are filled, and pass-

ing over the upper pinion, throw it into a large hopper on the upper flat, which serves as a reservoir to the rest below. The bolting machine is supplied after the same manner, so that one man can with ease attend to all the work. Nature hath formed for this valuable mill a barrier, which is a durable ridge of rocks, extending a considerable way into the river, so that no labour is required to keep it in repair. Upon the whole, the banks of the river from Quebec upwards, during the spring and summer months, wear a most agreeable aspect, and may compare with the Tweed and the Teviot; only the romantic beauties of certain places, in both these rivers, must be allowed to outvie them. But retire backward, you are lost in a wilderness, the extent of which has never yet been ascertained, nor has its interior been explored by the intrepid traveller. The British emigrant, whose youthful days has been devoted to the stock, or agricultural line, upon hearing the frequent news of a large open country, a generous soil, &c. he disposes of his stock and moveables, crosses the ocean, pushes his way, perhaps some hundreds of miles up this great river, may be he is for-

tunate enough to obtain a grant of one, two, or three hundred acres of wood land. After building a hut for sheltering himself and family, he must commence the arduous task of cutting and clearing the wood from his ground, urged on by the calls of necessity, he feels his situation very disagreeable for a long time. He and his family must be supported, if reduced in circumstances, he is often obliged to give his neighbours a share of his labour. In the midst of toil, and many insurmountable difficulties, he begins to discover, "That the pleasure of an independency is only to be attained by ardent industry."

My next excursion was into the forest, which had almost terminated my career.

About the middle of July, 1807, I visited the mountain a second time, and rested an hour upon its summit. Here I formed a resolution to make an excursion into the bush, and to travel in a northerly direction. A thunder storm approaching, I left this delightful place, but before I could extricate myself from the brush wood about its skirts, I had the mortification to be bit all over face and hands, with these pests the musquitoes. At night it thun-

dered tremendously. The cloud from which it issued was so large, that it covered the whole horizon, and so slow in its motion, that it was difficult to know in what direction it moved. When nearest, it was within three pulsations, or 914 yards. Some of the peals were remarkable for their loudness, and resembled the report of a great gun, more than the hurling noise of thunder. Its greatest discernible distance was 55 pulsations, which is about ten miles. Next morning I was surprised to find the shallows encircled with sulphur; from a washing tub which was left without doors, I gathered it on my fingers, so strongly had the air been impregnated.

Being prepared for my projected excursion, I prevailed with an acquaintance, a Canadian, whose desire for novelty was as strong as my own, to accompany me. We were provided with two excellent fusees, and plenty of shot, each a pair of long boots, and provisions for two or three days.

Travelling northward, we had a good road for ten miles. On the third Monday of July, about noon, we reached the shore of the Ottaway River, and made a signal for a batteau or

a boat. Having crossed this ford, we strolled about among the Canadian farmers, until the extreme heat of the day was abated. Hinting our design, some of them advised us to give up, others to augment our little stock of provisions. Being fully determined to proceed, we complied, and set forward with a numerous load of bread, cheese, and rum. An old man accompanied us to the extremity of his cultivated grounds, and, among other things, told us to avoid the Indians as much as possible; "for," said he, "although they are under a restraint in the town, who knows what they may be guilty of, when they have a favourable opportunity, for the sake of plunder." We thanked him for his advice, and parted. We immediately found ourselves in the forest, all distant scenes disappeared, only we had the pleasure to get a peep at Montreal mountain frequently. Night drawing on, the musquitoes annoyed us. Being much fatigued, we chose out a place to rest, contrived to kindle a fire, and passed the first night in the best manner we could.

On Tuesday morning we set forward, but made very slow progress, upon account of

fallen trees and brush-wood, besides the ground became swampy. The first thing that caught our attention, was the snakes; at every step they appeared, but always fled. We observed only two kinds, the black and green. The former sheltered themselves in the hollow trunks of rotten trees, the latter, resembling the eel, disappeared among the moss. We killed one, which measured thirty two inches in length, and four and a half in circumference, saw a few squirrels. About mid-day rested, and refreshed ourselves, where we had the good fortune to find water, which we stood much in need of. By four o'clock afternoon, we were quite spent, and having seen nothing worth our notice, we consulted what course to steer, climbed a tree, to see, if possible, on what direction we had moved, but the mountain was beyond our view, so we had only the declining sun to guide us. Rummaging our stock of provisions, we were startled by a sudden burst among the brambles, we prepared ourselves, and made towards the place, it was a large fox devouring a bird of the vulture kind, having both let fly, we killed it, but had not the presence of mind to take off it's skin.

Pushing our way still north; we arrived at a gentle declivity, inclining west. We travelled in that direction, in hopes of falling in with a stream of water, for we were terrified at the idea of wanting this article, having already suffered from not having any vessel to carry it. Here we found a variety of birds, and ground squirrels. The soil was scanty, the trees of hard wood.

Having spent the second night as we had done the first, when morn appeared, we pursued our course. Arriving at a rivulet, we judged it to be the source of a river, a tributary of one of the three rivers that fall into St Lawrence, eighty miles below Montreal. Travelling downward, we found wild grapes and plums, in great plenty. Some spots also abounded with moor berries. At noon we rested upon the trunk of a fallen tree, and refreshed ourselves. Having travelled a considerable way downward without making any discovery, we passed this night by the river side.

On the fourth day we began to hesitate, and had some thoughts of returning home. However we still held down the banks. At last we came to a kind of ford, where we per-

ceived the impression of large feet upon the sand, which we believed were those of the bear. We discharged our pieces, to see if any creature would make its appearance. Hearing a plunging in the water, ran towards the place, a creature set up its head, resembling an otter, but disappeared in a moment. Here were plenty of small fish. Sitting down to breakfast, we, for the first time, espied a bear walking slowly down the opposite bank. Although we were both a little timorous, yet we resolved to attack it. Striving to get as near as we could unperceived, unluckily my neighbour's gun went off, while he was pressing through the brambles. The animal took the alarm, and made quickly away. As the appearance of the clouds predicted a sudden storm of rain and thunder, we drew towards a rocky hill, and sheltered ourselves under the projecting root of a large tree. At night it began to thunder, and about midnight the lightnings were vivid, and the rain remarkably heavy, for the space of three hours. Our situation was very dangerous. The awful peals shook the rock. Sometimes we thought that the

huge root would fall and bury us beneath it. In this dilemma we passed this dreary night.

On the morrow we clambered up the hill to look around us, but we saw nothing but forest, bounded by the sky on every side. Our spirits sunk, and our minds retreated homeward, and we felt our resolutions fail. Resolving to proceed towards Montreal, we examined our stock of provisions, and still had plenty for the journey. Just about to depart, we perceived smoke at a considerable distance, north by west, we at once resolved to make towards it. As we descended the hill, we saw a fox enter a hole, beneath a loose rock. We set to work to undermine the place. After two hours hard work it gave way, and swept us before it, but we lost our trouble, for reynard on hearing the disturbance, thought proper to leave his residence and disappear; getting quickly down the stream, we fell in with a sort of track, but whether of man or beast, we could not determine. At length we reached another hil l, which had some spots of verdure upon its si les, which we took for a good omen. Here we passed the night, anxious to know what next day might produce. Passing downward, we

saw that noisome creature the skunk, and the humming bird, which we killed; this bird is remarkable for its smallness, of a dark blue colour, inclining to purple, being a real curiosity we preserved it, we also killed two hares, and carried them with us. Now the stream had many windings, its banks were steep and rocky, we found the track again, and followed downward as quickly as possible, what with travelling and with want of proper rest, we found ourselves quite debilitated, besides this we were frequently overcome with a certain degree of fear; we could not tell where we were, nor in what direction we had advanced for nearly three days past, our whole dependance lay in this stream carrying us down to some inhabited part of the country.

Having followed the tract for some time, we came at length to a place where some trees had lately been cut with an axe, now we considered ourselves to be in the neighbourhood of some human habitation. In a short time we fell in with an enclosure of Indian corn, from which we found a good road leading northward, We followed it, and came unto a canoe unfinished, lying by the stream, and some wood for

other purposes, by these we knew that a dwelling must be close upon us, but whether of that of savages, or civilized mankind, we knew not. Seeing no time was to be lost, we screened ourselves in the bush, keeping a close look out, saw the smoke about a quarter of a mile distant, arising as it were from one habitation, which the trees hid from our view. At last we perceived an old man coming up the bank on the opposite side of the stream, he stopped at the canoe, drew out some tools from below it, and commenced working. We crept near to inspect him more narrowly, at length determined to discover ourselves, but judged proper to fire one of our pieces, which started him so much, that he let the instrument fall from his hand. Seeing him looking round about with astonishment, we presented ourselves to view, two wretched looking figures, almost in rags. He stood staring at us without offering to move, we threw down our guns, went forward, and my companion saluted him in French, but he stood speechless, by this time we were close to the stream. I spoke to him in English, and he answered me immediately. We felt so overcome with joy, at this

instant, that we plunged through the stream at the nearest, and took him by the hand, it was some time before we recovered the use of our tongue, and the old man broke the silence. "Young men," said he, "by what chance have you come into this remote place, have you lost your way?" "Yes," said I, "we are rather at a loss, our curiosity has led us too far." "Where came you from, what countrymen are you?" "From Montreal, my comrade is a Canadian, and I am a Briton born. The old man seemed to feel for us. "Go bring your muskets," said he. We did so. "Follow me, my little cot is hard bye, I need not ask you whether you are fatigued, for I see you are so, and stand much in need of both rest and refreshment." When within sight of his house, "there is my lonely cottage," said he, "rest here a little, until I apprize my wife and daughter, for I assure you that neither of them have seen a man, but myself, these twenty-six years." He soon re returned, and we entered the house with little ceremony, and was kindly received by the good woman, but she had much ado to bring her timorous daughter into our presence. After

supper we conversed with freedom, answered a great number of questions, for the old couple were very inquisitive. They prepared a bed for us on the floor, with a bear skin for covering, and after family prayer, we retired to rest.

Next morning we rose betimes, and joined again with the family in worshipping God. Afterwards had breakfast, which was Indian flour, boiled with milk. "I have endeavoured," said our host, "ever since I came into this retired place, to spend this day in a suitable manner. I am out of the reach of hearing the gospel preached, but I have it there," pointing to a large bible. "And I can read it, and have often felt much satisfaction in perusing that blessed book. Almighty God hath blessed it to me, and he will bless it to every true seeker of his face. I knew some Indians, who loved to read it every Sunday; and I have read it to some of them who could not read it. You can read the bible, be thankful. England is much beloved, a happy country. O America, America! full of pagan idolatry! when will your time come?" We read by turns, and spent the day mostly within the house.

On Monday he showed us all his grounds,

which were spots here and there, as they lay convenient. His crop consisted of wheat, Indian corn, and potatoes; with some pot herbs, and tobacco. His cattle were not allowed to go at large. He had a portion of the bush inclosed, by rails nailed from tree to tree, from which the under-growth was cleared. But his swine had liberty.

On Tuesday, after breakfast, we accompanied him to the river, where he fell to work upon his canoe. "I need not," said he, "have been at the trouble of making this, had I been careful enough to secure one which I lately lost. We had a thunder storm, accompanied with a heavy rain, about the middle of last week, which swelled the stream considerably. It was night, and so dark that I durst not venture abroad. On the morning, I found my canoe gone. After a fruitless search, almost a whole day, I returned, and fell to work to make a new one. Yet still, when this is finished, I intend to renew the search." "How long time will finish this?" "If I continue at work, I shall have it in the stream to-morrow, if you choose to stay a day or two, I shall be glad of your

company down with me." "How do you bring your canoe up again?" I drag it where the current is strong.

About noon next day, he finished his work, and to accommodate us, launched his canoe. We went aboard—pushed off, but had scarcely proceeded twenty yards downward, when she upset, and we were completely ducked.

Next morning betimes, having provided ourselves with necessaries, and put in a few stones for ballast, we sailed downward. Coming amongst rocks and narrows, we could not proceed farther without disembarking; and by means of ropes, lowered down the canoe. At last we were obliged to make it fast, and proceed without it. Coming to a place where the rocks seemed to close upon the stream, and almost to stop it altogether. "If I find my canoe at all, it must be here," said the old man. Examining the place, we found that the stream, after winding amongst the rocks, entirely disappeared. We soon found the place of its entrance. It was a rugged subterraneous passage, about nine or ten feet wide, over the mouth of it, hung in frightful projection, sharp blue rocks, apparently loose, and ready to

tumble upon us. We looked in, but it was quite dark, so we could only see a short distance, but what surprised us most of all, we heard the bark of a dog at a distance, in this passage. Mentioning this circumstance, the old man, " It must be my poor dog, I have not seen him since yesterday. I have not the least doubt," continued he, " but my canoe is in this place, which has led him hither." We called him repeatedly by name, but he only barked the louder. After a long consultation, we resolved to reconnoitre this dark passage, but first, we went round the hill to make observations. We soon discovered a small cataract, which we found to be the mouth of the passage. The old man seemed to lose all hopes of seeing his beloved dog any more. " I can," said he, " when I lose one canoe, make another, but when I lose a favourite dog, who has been my companion in these wilds so long, where shall I find another." Having prevailed upon him to bring down the new canoe, my comrade and I went aboard. The old man let us go down with the current, about ten or twelve fathoms, which was all the rope he had with him. Having made ourselves fast, we

called, and he let go the rope, which we fixed to the root of a tree, of which there was plenty on every hand; and continued to lower down the canoe. At last we perceived a light at no great distance, which we judged to be the end of the passage, but we found ourselves quite mistaken, it was only a glimmer from the top, which had found its way between two rocks. Now we heard the dog distinctly, and soon reached the poor animal. He was standing in the lost canoe, which we found turned across the current, in a narrow place, between rocks and roots. We contrived to strike a light, but it would not burn. Having made all fast, we dragged ourselves upwards in the best manner we could, by means of the ropes and projecting roots of trees. And after much labour, arrived at the entrance of this dismal place. The old man was gone, we fired a gun and waited. At last he came round the hill, for he expected we were gone quite through, and was watching our appearance at the other side. He was quite pleased to find all safe, and to see his dog again. We were willing to return home, and we were received joyfully; and the old man related the whole adventure,

at which his wife and daughter, were much astonished.

Next day we brought up the canoes, and designed to take our leave of the family, but they entreated us to rest till the beginning of the week. Among other things, he told us, that in his youth, he had been in the army, in the British service. He said he loved the English. I asked him if ever he had the pleasure of seeing the king, his old master. "No, I never did see King George, but I have seen a man, who knew another man, who told him, that he once saw the king. After I left the service," continued he, "I bought a share of a sloop, and traded upon the North River. But about the beginning of the contest between England and America, the Yankies plundered us. I lost nearly all, and came over to the British settlements, and at last resolved to spend my days in this retreat. I go to Montreal once every year. There I barter commodities, and I have all I wish of this world."

At length we left this singular family, being provided with what necessaries their store afforded. The old man gave us a direction,

which we took good care to observe. He had peeled off the bark from certain trees, which served for guide posts, all the way from his own possession to the edge of the forest, by keeping these in our eye, we found our way in half of the time we had been travelling before. We arrived at Montreal in a very ragged condition, and never afterward had a desire of another excursion into the bush.

On the approach of winter, which commonly sets in about the latter end of November, all the shipping leave the harbour, otherwise they would be in danger of being frozen in, and of course take up their winter quarters. After this period, you will not find a vessel that carries a sail, in the neighbourhood of Montreal. Now families prepare for approaching winter. A stove is set up. Those who do not choose to purchase, can rent one for four dollars the single, or six dollars a double stove. During the winter, people in good circumstances places in double windows, and set up a porch, to defend against the severity of the climate. The common people content themselves with covering the joinings of their windows with pasted paper, &c. When the snow

falls, wheeled carriages of every description are laid aside, and sleighs and carryols used in their stead. The river is generally frozen, so as to bear passage, about the latter end of December. But at the rapids, opposite the town, no carriage can cross, until a road be levelled; for there the flakes of ice rise over each other, forming mountains, between which are dangerous hollows, where the unwary often perish. However, when the rapids become completely wedged up, a number of men are employed at the public expence, to form a road to the opposite side, which is nearly four miles. This done, they set up branches of trees, at short distances, as guide posts, in case the next fall of snow fill up the track. This is the market road, on which there is a continual passing and repassing of sleighs, with country produce, and carryols with passengers.

In January and February the cold is extreme. The ice upon the river measured three feet in thickness, for three successive winters. The snow, at an average, was four feet deep over the country, yet the air was for the most part pure and healthy. Indeed, I

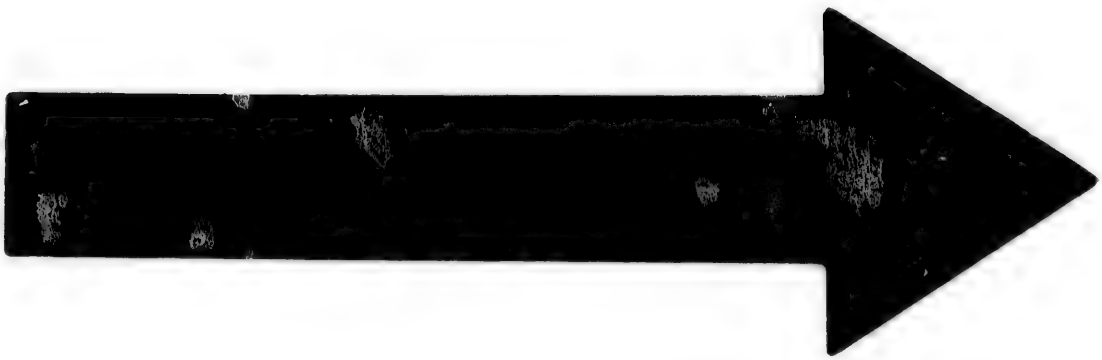
found that I was able to endure the winter cold, much easier than the summer heat.

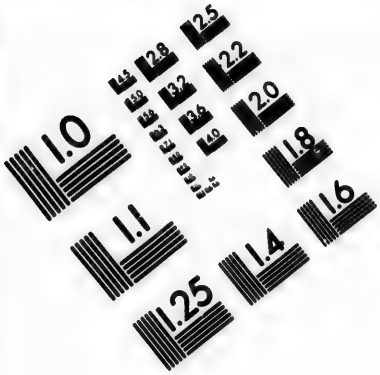
About the latter end of March, the ice begins to give way, for by this time the sun has great influence. The snow dissolves so rapidly, that for some time the streets are almost impassable. People wear brogues, or wooden shoes over their boots. These are cut out of a solid block of birch wood, and may be purchased at one shilling and threepence a pets in Where the grounds lie exposed to the sun, and sheltered from the north wind, Gardeners uncover certain spots, and sow their cabbage, which transplant in May.

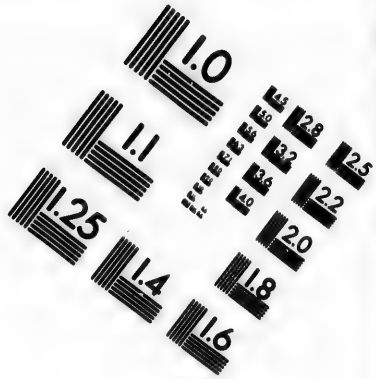
About the end of April, the river is clear of ice, and toward the end of the month, sloops and schooners make their appearance at Montreal. In May the orchards present a beautiful scene. The variegated forest, decorated by the plum, the cherry, the wild apple, and the hawthorn, has an enlivening effect. The hardy labourer now has his hands full. The industrious husbandman finds all his exertions to fall short of fulfilling his designs. Vegetation increases so rapidly, that no time is to be lost.

In May, the ground is ready to receive the seed. Wheat is the principal grain, but the growth is so rapid, that the crop is not so weighty as in England. Barley grows pretty well; but oats degenerate in Lower Canada. Potatoes are good in general, but upon account of the drowth, are not very plentiful. Their hay in general, is good in quality, but not abundant.

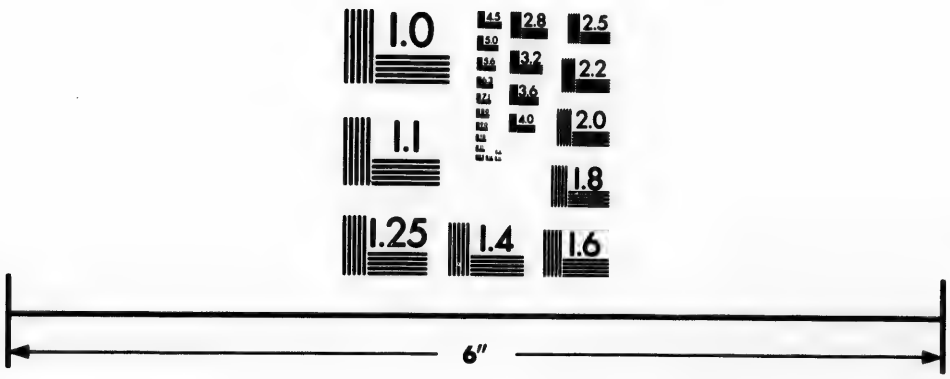
In June, the fields are cloathed in verdure, the beauties of summer meet the eye in every direction. About the middle of this month, the shad flies cover the country, and continues passing upward, following the course of the river, for several days. They are so numerous, that the air is filled with them; and, being white, like a small butterfly, they resemble a shower of snow from the east, driven by a gentle breeze. About the end of this month, thunder is frequent. The air before a storm being impregnated with sulphur, people feel uneasy, a difficulty of breathing, and a heaviness about the breast. A little good rum and water taken, has been found to give some relief. One night, in particular, the atmosphere was illuminated, as it were by one






# IMAGE EVALUATION TEST TARGET (MT-3)



Photographic Sciences Corporation

23 WEST MAIN STREET
WEBSTER, N.Y. 14580
(716) 872-4503

continued blaze, the thunder so near, that I was not able to measure time between the flash and the report. Many of the peals were uncommonly loud. On the morning, the shallows were encircled with sulphur. However little damage is done in proportion.

An old Scotchman, who had been in this country from his early years, told me, that "about thirty-five years ago, in the month of August, at mid-day, a great darkness was seen approaching up the St Lawrence, toward Montreal, which in a short time enveloped the town, bringing with it an uncommon sulphurous smell—lightning frequent and vivid, gave a momentary brightness to the terrible gloom. The inhabitants, struck with fear, thronged to the churches with lighted candles, in the firm belief that the great day was at hand. The astonished birds fell from the heavens. All business was at a stand. Until, at the end of three hours, this memorable darkness went off, and the cheering orb of day regained his wonted liberty to enliven the bewildered land."

Earthquakes are not so frequent in Canada, as in South America. In 1807, a small shock was felt at midnight, in the month of May.

Many of the inhabitants were alarmed, believing this to be the forerunner of a dreadful eruption. Since the violent concussion which happened in the year 1663, which is handed down to posterity in all its awful circumstances, they seem terrified at the slightest visitation.

Before proceeding further, I shall take the liberty to lay before my readers a brief account of this extraordinary derangement of nature. "On the 5th of February, about half an hour after four in the evening, a great noise was heard nearly at the same time throughout the whole of Canada. That noise seems to have been the effect of a sudden vibration of the air agitated in all directions, it appeared as if the houses were on fire; and the inhabitants, in order to avoid its effects, immediately ran out of doors. But their astonishment was increased, when they saw the buildings shaken with the greatest violence, and the roofs disposed to fall, sometimes on one side, sometimes on the other. The doors opened of themselves, and shut again with a violent crash. All the bells of the churches were sounding, although no person touched them. The Pallisades of the

fences seemed to bound out of their places. The walls were rent. The planks of the floor separated, and again sprung together. The dogs answered these previous tokens of a general disorder of nature, by lamentable howlings. The other animals sent forth the most terrific groans and cries, and, by natural instinct, extended their legs to prevent them from falling. The surface of the earth was moved like an agitated sea. The trees were thrown against each other, and many, torn up by the roots, were tossed to a considerable distance.

Sounds of every description were then heard, at one time like the fury of a sea, which has overflowed its barriers. At another like a multitude of carriages rolling over a pavement. And again, like mountains of rock or marble opening their bowels, and breaking into pieces, with a tremendous roar. Thick clouds of dust, which at the same time arose, were taken for smoke, and for the symptoms of an universal conflagration. The consternation became so general, that not only men, but the animals, appeared struck with wonder. They ran in every quarter, without a knowledge of their

course; and wherever they went, they encountered the danger they wished to avoid. The cries of children—the lamentation of women—the alternate succession of fire and darkness in the atmosphere, all combined to aggravate the evils of dire calamity, which subverts every thing, by the excruciating tortures of the imagination. Distressed and confounded, and losing, in the contemplation of this general confusion, the means of self-preservation. The ice, which covered the St Lawrence and the other rivers, broke in pieces, which crashed against each other. Large bodies of ice were thrown up into the air, and from the place where they had quitted, a quantity of sand, slime, and water spouted up. The sources of several springs, and little rivers, became dry. The waters of others were impregnated with sulphur. And sometimes the waters appeared red; at other times of a yellowish cast. Those of the St Lawrence became white, rom Quebec to Tadoussac, a space of thirty leagues. The quantity of matter necessary to impregnate so vast a body of water, must have been prodigious. In the mean time, the atmosphere continued to exhibit the most

awful phenomena. An incessant rushing noise was heard, and the fires assumed every species of form. The most plaintive voices augmented the general terror and alarm. Porpoises and sea cows were heard howling in the water, at three rivers, where none of these fishes had ever been found, and the noise which they sent forth, resembled not that of any known animal. Over the whole extent of three hundred leagues from east to west, and one hundred and fifty from south to north, the rivers and coasts of the ocean experienced, for a considerable time, although at intervals, the most dreadful agitation. The first shock continued, without interruption, for half an hour. About eight o'clock in the evening, there came a second, no less violent than the first; and in the space of half an hour, were two others. During the night were reckoned thirty shocks.

"It appears wonderful that in so extraordinary a derangement of nature, which lasted for six months, no human inhabitant should have perished, and no contagion should have succeeded. The country, soon after, resumed its wonted form and tranquillity. Although in some memoirs, it is stated, that the great

river, with respect to its banks, and some parts of its course, underwent remarkable changes. That new islands were formed, and others enlarged. Of this circumstance, there does not appear to have existed a probability. The river bears no marks of having suffered thereby any interruption, or change in its course, from Lake Ontario to Tadoussac. The Rapids of St Louis at Montreal, and the several islands, remain in the same state as when Jacques Carter first visited them."

In August the wheat harvest commences, and as the weather is remarkably warm and steady, it is quickly got over. Every farmer has a large barn, or store house, where he deposits his produce; and when his out labours are over, he retreats thither, where he employs himself in thrashing out, and preparing his grain for the market.

Potatoes, turnips, carrots, cabbages, &c. are brought into the root house, and covered with sand. His fuel being piled up, and ready for use, he sits down snug and comfortable, and can smile in the face of a wintery blast. Those who are within reach of the market, bring in their produce weekly. The grain

being in bags, and two or three sleighs loaded, the farmer's son is set off an hour or two before day; and the guidman and guidwife follow in their carryol, with a stock of poultry, dressed in plain hodden gray of their own manufacture. They dash along the road, while the small bells, which are attached to the harness of the horse, bespeak their approach, and bid the passenger clear the way.

After market is over, they generally resort to the well-known tavern, and enjoy themselves over a glass of grog, and a pipe of tobacco. Sometimes I had occasion to do a little business with them. On entering the room, I was almost confounded with their kindness. They seem very partial to the English, and are happy to deal with them. However, few British emigrants choose to settle amongst them, partly because they cannot understand their language to converse with them, and because all the French Canadians are catholics. Of course, from Quebec to Montreal, you will find very few British settlers.

When winter sets in, the labours of the field are at a close. Those who have been industrious during the summer, now reap the fruits

of their labour. But alas! many are unprovided, and numbers who are able to work as day labourers cannot find employment, not a few of the poorer class earn a livelihood by cutting firewood, others hire themselves to go into the bush, for two or three months, where they are employed in felling trees.

In December, the snow begins to fall, and the earth never emerges from her winter covering until the end of March. Mechanical men, however, are not so badly off, even the mason, when well employed, continues his labour by the stove, within the house; but their wages are reduced in November.

Tradesmen generally receive in proportion to abilities, and the present demand. From April until November, joiners are paid at an average, 5s per day, masons 7s 6d, plaisterers 5s 6d, labourers employed in their service receive 4s, some 4s 6d. Shoemakers and tailors are seldom at a loss for employment. Owing to the immense influx of emigrants at Quebec and Montreal of late, whose circumstances called for immediate employment, wages were broken down almost a third, and many were so reduced as to require the assistance of the public;

of course reports of a distressing nature alarmed their relations at home. Had these people been able to push their way up the country, and separate themselves, nothing of this kind would have taken place, none may suppose that these towns can find employment for so great a number of fresh hands; an emigrant ought to be possessed of somewhat more than will barely pay his passage, and if he has not learned a trade, he must endeavour to obtain all the information he can concerning the object of his pursuit, and press forward to compass his design. We are not to suppose that a few letters wrote by unfortunate individuals is a true picture of the country, neither are we to believe a stagnation of trade has taken place, because two or three thousand additional hands cannot be employed.

Upper and lower Canada are extensive provinces, and by far the greater part of the land lying in a state of nature. The British government still holds out encouragement to intending emigrants, and many has of late received grants of land in the upper country, where the soil is in general good, and the climate healthy. This part of America is seldom infested with that

dangerous disease, the yellow fever, which almost every year makes such havoc in the united states, nor is it so oppressed with taxation It is well known, that our government has not only given encouragement, but shewn much lenity to settlers for many years past. The English law protects the person and property of every industrious individual in Canada. Though the gospel cannot be said to be within the reach of every person, particularly those who have chosen situations near the frontiers of the province, yet we are happy to state, that great exertions are making to settle preachers among them, and there are several prayer meetings established, which are well attended. Many of the native Indians assemble at their respective places of public worship, and hear in their own language the doctrines of the blessed Jesus, with reverence and attention.

Before I proceed homeward, I shall take the liberty to present my readers with a view of the celebrated Falls of Niagara. "Niagara river issues from the eastern extremity of Lake Erie, and after a course of thirty six miles, discharges itself into Lake Ontario. For the

first few miles from Lake Erie, the breadth of the river is three hundred yards, and it is deep enough for vessels drawing nine or ten feet water, but the current is so extremely rapid and irregular, and the channel so intricate upon account of the numberless large rocks in different places, that no other vessels than batteau* ever attempt to pass along it."

"As you proceed downward the river widens, no rocks are to be seen, either along the shores or in the channel, and the water glide smoothly along, though the current continues very strong. The river runs thus evenly, and is navigable with safety for batteaux, as far as fort Chippaway, which is about three miles above the falls. At this place the bed of it again becomes rocky, and the waters are violently agitated, by passing down successive rapids, so much so indeed, that, were a boat by any chance to be carried a little way beyond Chippaway, where travellers usually stop, nothing could save it from being dashed to pieces, long before it came to the falls; with such astonish-

* A batteau or battò, is a flat bottomed boat, built on purpose to sail on shallow water, but it is not so expeditious as the canoe, nor even the common boat.

ing impetuosity the waves break on the rocks in these rapids, that the mere sight of them from the top of the banks is sufficient to make you tremble. The river forces its way amidst the rocks with redoubled impetuosity, as it approaches towards the falls; at last coming to the brink of the tremendous precipice, it tumbles headlong to the bottom, without meeting with any interruption from rocks in its descent. Just at the precipice, the river makes a considerable bend to the right, and the line of the falls, instead of extending from bank to bank, in the shortest direction, runs obliquely accross.

The width of the falls is considerably greater than the width of the river, admeasured some way below the precipice. The river does not rush down the precipice in one unbroken sheet, but is divided by islands into three distinct colatteral falls. The most stupendous of these is that on the north western or British side of the river, commonly called the great or Horse Shoe Fall, from bearing some resemblance to the shape of a horse's shoe. The height of this is only one hundred and forty two feet, whereas the others are each one hundred

and sixty feet high, but to its inferior height it is indebted principally for its grandeur; the precipice, and of course the bed of the river above it, being so much lower at the one side than at the other, by far the greatest part of the water finds its way to the low side, and rushes down with greater velocity at that side, than it does at the other, as the rapids above the precipice are the strongest there. It is from the centre of the Horse Shoe Fall that arises that prodigious cloud of mist, which may be seen so far off. The extent of the Horse Shoe Fall can only be ascertained by the eye; the general opinion of those who have most frequently viewed it is, that it is not less than six hundred yards in circumference. The island which separates it from the next fall, is supposed to be about five hundred and fifty yards wide. The second fall is about five yards wide, the next island is about thirty yards, and the third, commonly called the Fort Schloper Fall, from being situated towards the side of the river, on which that Fort stands, is judged to measure at least as much as the larger island. The whole extent of the precipice, therefore, including the islands, is, according to this computa-

tion thirteen thousand three hundred and five yards. This is certainly not an exaggerated statement, some have supposed that the line of the falls together, exceeds an English mile. The quantity of water carried down the fall is prodigious, it will be found to amount to 670,255 tons per minute.

" We returned through the woods, bordering upon the precipice, to the open fields, and then directed our course by a circuitous path, to a part of the cliff, where it is possible to descend to the bottom of the cataract. It can only be done at two places, where large masses of earth have crumbled down, and ladders have been placed from one break to another. The first of these places which you come to, in walking to the river from the Horse-shoe Fall downward, is called the Indian ladder, having been constructed by the Indians. We proceed to the other place, which is lower down the river, called Mr Simcoe's ladder, the ladder having been originally placed there for the accommodation of the lady of the late governor."

On arriving at the bottom of the cliff, you find yourself in the midst of huge piles of misshapen rocks, with great masses of earth and

rocks, projecting from the side of the cliff, and overgrown with pines and cedar, hanging over your head, apparently ready to crumble down, and crush you to atoms. Many of the large trees grow with their heads downward, being suspended by the roots, which had taken such a firm hold in the ground at the top of the cliff, that when part of it gave way, the trees did not fall all together. The river before you here is somewhat more than a quarter of a mile wide; and, on the opposite side of it, a little to the right, the Fort Schloper Fall, is seen to great advantage; what you see of the Horse-shoe Fall also appears in a very favourable point of view. The projecting cliff conceals nearly one half of it. The Fort Schloper Fall is skirted at the bottom by milk white foam, which ascends in volumes from the rocks, but it is not seen to rise above the fall like a cloud of smoke, as is the case at the Horse-shoe Fall, nevertheless the spray is so considerable, that it descends on the opposite side of the river, at the foot of Simcoe's ladder, like rain.

Having reached the margin of the Fall, we proceeded towards the Great Fall, along the

strand, which, for a considerable part of the way thither, consists of beds of lime stone rock, covered with gravel, except, indeed, where great piles of stone have fallen from the sides of the cliff. These horizontal beds of rock, in some places, extend very far into the river, forming points, which break the force of the current, and occasion strong eddies along particular parts of the shore. Here great numbers of the bodies of fish, squirrels, foxes, and various other animals, that, unable to stem the current of the river above the falls, have been carried down them, and consequently killed, are washed up. The shore is likewise found strewed with trees, and large pieces of timber, that have been swept away from the saw mill, above the Falls, and carried down the precipice.

The timber is generally terribly shattered, and the carcases of all the large animals, particularly of the large fishes, are found very much bruised. A dreadful stench arises from the quantity of the putrid matter lying on the shore, and the numberless birds of prey, attracted by it, are always seen hovering about the place.

From the foot of Simcoe's ladder you may

walk along the strand for some distance, without inconvenience. But as you approach the Horse-shoe Fall, the way becomes more and more rugged. In some places where the clift has tumbled down, huge mounds of earth, rocks, and trees, reaching to the water's edge, oppose your course. It seems impossible to pass them, and indeed, without a guide, a stranger would never find his way to the opposite side. For to get there, it is necessary to mount nearly to the top, and then crawl on your hands and knees, through long dark holes, where passages are left open between the torn up roots and trees.

After passing these mounds, you have to climb from rock to rock, close underneath the cliff, for there is but little space between the cliff and the river, and these rocks are so slippery, owing to the continual moisture from the spray, which descends very heavily, that without the utmost precaution, it is scarcely possible to escape a fall. At the distance of a quarter of a mile from the Great Fall, we were as wet, owing to the spray, as if each of us had been thrown into the river.

There is nothing whatever to prevent you

from passing to the very foot of the Great Fall, and you might even proceed behind the prodigious sheet of water, that comes pouring down from the top of the precipice; for the water falls from the edge of a projecting rock, and moreover, caverns of a very considerable size, have been hallowed out of the rocks at the bottom of the precipice, owing to the violent ebullition of the water, which extends some way underneath the bed of the upper part of the river. I advanced within about six yards of the edge of the sheet of water, just far enough to peep into the caverns behind it; but here my breath was nearly taken away, by the violent whirlwind that always rages at the bottom of the cataract, occasioned by the concussion of such a vast body of water against the rock. I confess I had no inclination at the time to go farther, nor indeed did any of us afterwards attempt to explore the dreary confines of these caverns, where death seems to meet him that should be daring enough to enter their threatening jaws. No words can convey an adequate idea of the awful grandeur of the scene; at the place your senses are appalled by the sight of the immense body of

water, that come pouring down so closely to you from the top of the stupendous precipice, and by the thundering sounds of the billows dashing against the rocky sides of the caverns below you, you tremble with reverential fear, when you consider, that a blast of the whirlwind might sweep you from off the slippery rocks on which you stand, and precipitate you into the dreadful gulf beneath, from whence all the power of man could not extricate you. You feel what an insignificant being you are in the creation, and your mind is forcibly impressed with an awful idea of the power of that mighty Being who commanded the waters to flow,

In awful grandeur, o'er the trembling steep,
The great St Lawrence falls—asunder driven,
By stubborn rocks; engulphed—deep calls to deep,
Loud roaring—heaves her boiling flood to heaven.
Think mortal, ye who mount the rocky verge,
To scan the wonderous whole, think on that power
Who rolls ten thousand times its full discharge,
Along the subtle fields of liquid air.

"A snake, of a most enormous size, made its appearance in Lake Ontario. It was first observed by two men, who were in an open

boat. On seeing it raise itself above the surface of the water, and making toward them, they pulled with all their might to the shore, where they stood staring, terribly affrighted. Saw it fold itself up in coils, forming a circle as large as the end of a hogshead. Its head resembled that of a sow, and its body was of a blackish colour. It shewed no inclination to come very near the shore, but in a little, sprung backward into the deep. The same, or one of a similar kind, attempted to pick a man off a sloop, which was crossing the Lake, by a great leap against the side of the vessel, but failed in the attempt. This monstrous snake, it is most probable, was bred in the North Seas, and found its way up the River St Lawrence, as far as Lake Ontario, of which it hath taken possession. The length and thickness of its body hath not been ascertained, but it has created no small alarm in the neighbourhood of this lake."

A CALENDAR, shewing the Variation of the Weather, the Progress of Vegetation, and the Customs of the Inhabitants, at Montreal, &c.

1806. March 10.—Smart showers of hail.

In this month the sap begins to ascend, and the sugar drawers begin their operations.

Towards the end of this month the earth begins to emerge from its winter covering.

26, 27.—The ice upon the river broke up, and began to move downward, which continues a fortnight.

The influence of the sun is considerable, and upon account of the rapid melting of the snow, the streets and lanes are almost impassable.

Carryols and sleighs are laid aside, and wheeled carriages are substituted in their place.

People are obliged to walk in wooden shoes, or brogues. Upon account of the breaking up of the ice, the markets are thinly attended.

April —About the middle of this month, Canadian sloops and schooners make their appearance.

22.—Thunder—Vegetation makes rapid progress.

May 2.—The first ship from Britain came into the harbour.

May 10.—Wheat and barley sown. Indian corn, pipkins, and potatoes planted.

In this month the apple and other fruit trees present a beautiful appearance.

15.—Most of the migratory birds, common to this country, pay their annual visit.

26—Warm weather, thermometer 75 at noon. Musquitoes very troublesome.

27, 28.—Several ships from Britain.

June.—Thunder, with showers.

10 11.—Close warm weather, much lightning and thunder from the N. W.

Thermometer 80.

About this time the shad flies pass upward, followed by a plentiful supply of shad fish.

People in general wear cotton cloths.

July 5.—Very warm weather, much thunder from the south.

Green Peas in market.

15.—Cucumbers and new potatoes.

18.—The river milk warm, ice used to cool it for drinking.

In passing along the shores of the river, you may see, perhaps, one hundred women, standing to the middle in the water, with a table before each of them, washing linens and other cloths. Soap is no object, many families and washer women manufacture it themselves.

19.—Harvest goes on.

20.—Much lightning at night.

August.—Close warm weather.

4.—Thunder and heavy rain.

10.—Thermometer 92.

From the middle of July, until the latter end of August, the thermometer ranges from 76 to 96, the weather sultry, with frequent thunder. During this period, people feel a considerable depression of spirits, a difficulty of breathing, &c.

The pavement of the streets that are exposed to the sun, are often so heated, that the dogs howl as they pass along.

21.—Harvest nearly ended.

28.—Moderate weather.

September.—Thermometer 70.

6.—Fine weather.

About the end of this month the potatoes are raised, and brought, with other roots, into the root-house.

Now the British feel relief from the extreme heat, the weather is more like that of their native climate.

October.—Mild weather—ships prepare for England.

Winter apples taken down.

November.—Cold winds to the 10th.

Variable to the 28th.

Ships must leave Montreal and Quebec before the 25th.

In this month stoves are set up, &c.

December 22.—Snow—wheel carriages laid aside, and carryols and sleighs used.

People wear socks over their shoes or boots.

Fine markets.

25.—Clear frosty weather.

January.—The river frozen—milk brought to market in cakes.

10.—Codlings sold at 4d the forpit, or 1d per quart.

February 4.—Snow.—This season the snow at Montreal measured four feet in depth. The ice upon the river nearly three feet thick.

Though the extremity of heat and cold is great, yet the Canadians seldom complain of either the one or the other. The British emigrant always feels most healthy in the winter season, indeed many would rather endure two winters, than suffer the suffocating heat of one summer. From the time the snow begins to fall, until it go off the earth by the influence of the sun in the spring, there is seldom, or never, any thaw, nor rain, but for the most part clear frosty weather. The falls of snow are seldom accompanied with storm, so that the market roads are blocked up. Travelling is much more expeditious in winter, than in summer, and people can travel upon the snow at an easier rate.

At Quebec we went on board the Montreal, a new ship, and set sail for Scotland. Drawing near the straits of Bellisle, saw a fragment of ice, apparently one hundred feet in height, above the surface of the water, and might be as many below. At first sight we took it to be a ship under sail, as winter was not yet come on. It must have remained in this place during the summer.

The coast of Labrador and Newfoundland, exhibit nothing cheerful, but, as far as the eye can reach, are unhospitable, black and sterile. Few choose to reside during winter on these bare coasts.

Bellisle is a desolate rocky island, situated near the northern extremity of Newfoundland. There appears not the least vestige of vegetation upon it. Indeed the prospect is very unfavourable on every hand, and no human habitation to be seen.

" Newfoundland is separated by the straits of Bellisle, from the shores of Labrador. On the west it is washed by the Gulph of St Lawrence, and on the east and south, by the Atlantic Ocean. It is situated between 46° 40′ and 51° north latitude, and between

53° 30′ and 58° 20′ west longitude. Its length about three hundred and fifty miles, and breadth two hundred. The form of the island is nearly triangular. Newfoundland lies under a very severe climate. It is constantly assailed, either with thick fogs, or storms of sleet and snow. The winter is long, and the cold intense. The produce of the soil is scanty, and insufficient to repay the toil of cultivation. But the produce of the waters enable the population to obtain their provision and clothing, without any disadvantage, from other countries.

Here we shall take a view of the fishery, and then leave the shores of this new world. The principal fishery is on the southern and western side. On the Great Bank, which stretches from north east, to south west, about two hundred leagues. The water on the bank is from twenty-two to fifty fathoms. On the east side, from sixty to eighty. On the lesser banks much the same. A great swell and a thick fog generally marks the place of the greater.

The boats or shallops are forty feet in the keel, rigged with a main mast, and fore mast

and lug sails, furnished with four oars, three of which row on one side, and the other, which is twice as large, belays the other three by being rowed sideways over the stern, by a man who stands for that purpose, with his face towards the rowers, counteracting them, and steering at the same time, as he gives way to the boat.

Each of these men is furnished with two lines, one on each side of the boat, and each furnished with two hooks, so there are sixteen hooks constantly employed, which are thought to make a tolerable good day's work, if they bring in from five to ten quintals* of fish, though they have stowage for, and often bring in, thirty. Two hundred quintals† is called a saving voyage, but not under. The bait used is small fish of all kinds, herring, capelin, lance, tom, cod, or young cod, the first of which they salt, and keep for some time, in case of scarcity of the rest, but these are not near so eagerly taken by the fish when salted. In case small fish cannot be got, they use sea fowl, which are easily taken, in vast numbers, by spreading nets

* A quintal of fish, in Newfoundland, is 100 pounds averdupoise.

† 8 tons, 18 cwt. and 2 quarters, nearly.

over the holes in the rocks where they come to roost in the night. If neither small fish nor birds are to be got, they are forced to use the maws of the fish they catch, which is the worst bait of any.

When the fish are taken, they are carried to the stage, which is built with one end over the water, for the convenience of throwing the offals into the sea, and for their boats being able to come close to discharge their fish. As soon as they come to the stage, a boy hands them to the header, who stands at the side of a table next the water, and whose business it is to gut the fish and cut off the head, which he does by pressing the back of the head against the side of the table, which is made sharp for that purpose, when both head and entrails fall through a hole in the floor into the water; he then shoves the fish to the splitter, who stands opposite to him. His business is to split the fish, beginning at the head and opening down to the tail; at the next cut he takes out the largest part of the back bone, which falls through the floor into the water; he then shoves the fish off the table, which drops into a kind of hand barrow, which, as soon as filled, is carried to the

salt pile. The header also flings the liver into a separate basket, for the making of train oil, used by the curriers, which brings a higher price than whale oil.

In the salt pile, the fish are spread upon one another, with a layer of salt between. Thus they remain till they have taken salt, and when cured, the superfluous salt is washed off, by throwing them from the shore in a kind of float called a pond. As soon as this is completed, they are carried to the last operation of drying, which is done on standing flakes, made by a slight wattle, just strong enough to support the men who lay on the fish. These flakes are supported by poles, in some places as high as twenty feet from the ground. Here they are exposed with the open side to the sun, and every night, in coarse weather, they are piled up five or six in a heap, and a large one laid, skin uppermost, to shelter the rest. When they are tolerably dry, which, in good weather, is in a week's time, they are put in round piles, of eight or ten quintals each, covering them on the top with bark. In these piles they remain three or four days to sweat, after which they are again spread, and then put into larger

heaps, and covered with canvass, and left there till they are put on board. Thus prepared, they are sent to the Mediterranean, where they fetch a good price; but are not esteemed in England, for which place other kinds of fish are prepared, called by them mud fish, which, instead of being split quite open, like their dry fish, are only opened down to the navel. They are salted and lie in salt, which is washed out of them in the same manner with the others; but, instead of being laid up to dry, are barreled up in a pickle, made of salt boiled in water.

The train oil is made from the livers; it is called so to distinguish it from whale or seal oil, which they call fat oil, and which is sold at a lower price. It is thus made:—They take half a tub, and boring a hole through its bottom, press hard down into it a layer of spruce boughs, upon which they place the livers, and expose the whole apparatus to the sun; as the livers corrupt, the oil runs from them, and straining itself clear through these boughs, is caught in vessels set underneath the hole in the tub.

The number of permanent inhabitants in Newfoundland does not exceed four thousand.

The fishermen who resort there during the summer, always return upon the approach of winter. Leaving this inhospitable climate, we launched into the great Atlantic Ocean, and after fourteen days had elapsed, in which we had agreeable weather, and a fair wind, we began to be apprehensive of a storm from the north. Our cook, who was an old seaman, and endued with more than ordinary discernment respecting the weather, raised his black visage toward the northern sky, and having considered appearances, gave us to understand, by a significant nod, that his prospects were far from encouraging. In a short time the wind began to blow hard. Two men were sent up to the mast-head to look out for land—descried land at a considerable distance on the right hand. Although the storm was now increasing rapidly, yet we felt a sort of pleasure in drawing near home, and in the belief that if we were hard put to it, we might run into some harbour, and there find safety until it was over. Cheered by this idea, the steward, one of the mates, and I, were taking a bumper of our American rum, for each had brought a little for our private use, when we heard a loud rap on deck, and a

cry of "Land, land! all hands on deck!" Immediately our cargo shifted, and laid the lee side of the vessel under water to the main hatchway. I hurried up the hatchway, but how was I appalled when I perceived the dismal agitation which pervaded the whole crew. A momentary silence prevailed, for their senses seemed bewildered. Looking a-head, I soon perceived the principal cause of their alarm. Frightful rocks reared their rugged tops amidst the boisterous billows, and being a short way a-head of us, and our vessel under a great press of sail, they threatened immediate destruction. Silence was now broke by a voice from the cabin door. "D—n! H—l! D——n! H—l! pull men, pull!" In a moment all was activity. But, notwithstanding all our exertions, in a few minutes we were close upon the rocks, and narrowly escaped them; every sail was now reefed, the main-sheet excepted. Had the rocks not been observed at the time they were, we must inevitably all have perished; nor could they have been observed sooner by reason of a great spray, which was caused by the storm to arise from the raging billows. But, although we had escaped the rocks, we were still in the ut-

most danger, being between two lands, and at no great distance from either. It was found absolutely necessary to bear up against the wind as much as possible, that we might avoid being driven upon a lee shore. Night was now approaching, and little encouragement was given us to hope that we should see the light of another day. Wet and cold, I went down below to change some of my clothes, and see how matters went with my wife, who was all this time alone. She had attempted to come upon deck, but, terrified at the scene and uproar, had returned and clambered into her bed, where I found her sitting, holding fast, with both her hands, around a large post, in a very affrighted state, and indeed I could not give her any comfort, for the pale visage of each plainly testified that danger was impending. A light was handed down to my charge, with an injunction to preserve it alive if possible, that the binnacle might be supplied. For security I tied myself up against a strong post, and in this situation passed the dreary night.

On the morrow our prospect was little better. Day light ushered into our view barren hills and uninhabited wastes on each hand. The

deck of our vessel was a perfect wreck—the bulwarks on the lee side were broke in—the cam house, though strongly chained, was tumbled down—every thing moveable was swept off. The poultry, of which we had a good stock, were standing stiff, and many of them with their heads pushed through between the spokes of their cavie. A cock, and two ducks, had committed themselves to the waves; the two latter quietly submitted to the tossing of the raging element, but the cock, unaccustomed to so rough a conveyance, raised a noise, but whether they were so fortunate as to reach the land we knew not; neither were we at all concerned. Two days and nights passed, still the storm continued with relentless and unabated fury. None of us were able to eat a morsel of meat, neither did we attempt to look after any.

Leaving the north of Ireland, we soon came in sight of old Scotland. The first view I got of it, it appeared to me like a dark uneven glen. Sometimes it would disappear altogether, and then, on a sudden, present itself for a moment. Such a situation as ours at this time is beautifully painted by the inspired penman of the 107th psalm, and 26th verse, "They mount to

heaven, they go down again to the depth." Our heavy laden vessel seemed no weightier, upon the boisterous waves, than a feather in the air. When we entered the foot of the Firth of Clyde, we expected that the Mull of Kintyre would afford us at least some shelter, as it reared its mighty head between us and the blast—but even the great Mull itself gave us no relief. The tremendous storm, like a mighty *tornado*, came thundering down its bleak ridges, nor did it stop, but drove relentless o'er the foaming surge, here raised the tremulous element, and there appeared to rake its very channel.

When opposite Loch Ryan, our Captain purposed to put in there; and having prepared to drop anchor, we turned and got quickly in, and cast anchor in fourteen feet water, opposite a small village, called Cairn Ryan, where were a number of vessels of different magnitudes that had put in there to escape the storm. A cutter newly come in, the captain of which, with some of her crew, came on board of our vessel, and informed our captain, that the day preceding, a ship from Lisbon, whose cargo was cork wood and oranges, and forty passengers on

board, had got too far into the land; and endeavouring to tack if possible to stand outward, in the attempt she upset, and the cork wood getting wet, swelled so much as to burst off the deck; she was seen from the shore about the neighbourhood of Ayr, but no assistance could be given them. Some women passengers were found washed ashore, with many articles of different kinds. In Loch Ryan we lay two days and nights, after which the storm abated, and we arrived safe at Greenock, without suffering any further injury, having been 32 days from Quebec.

TO

# INTENDING EMIGRANTS.

THE step you are about to take, is of vast importance, and deserves your most serious consideration, particularly where families are dependant on your industry. The country you have been viewing in the perusal of this little piece, is extensive, mostly lying under wood. The climate differs from that of your native soil. The extremity of summer heat and winter cold, has been laid before you. What you must lay your account with, after obtaining a grant of land from government, is, in the first instance, hard labour, and labour of that description to which you have never been hitherto accustomed. The clearing of land is certainly as laborious a work as any man can be employed in, particularly during the extreme heat of the summer months, in Canada. But besides this, there are many other things which you would do well to take into consideration:

You must have a habitation to shelter your family, your grounds will produce you the materials, but a wooden house, even of the ordinary kind, sufficient to defend you against the severity of winter, will cost much labour and expence; true, you may obtain assistance from kind neighbours, but I would not have you place too much dependance upon this, as many have been disappointed. Another thing under your notice, is, where lands lie at a distance from market, the expence of carriage is considerable, which, added to the expence of cultivation, hath in many instances been found to equal nearly the whole price. It is true indeed, that your families will be supplied with plenty, you will feel no want of provisions, but there are many other things which you will find indispensably necessary. Clothing must be purchased—furniture must be had—and implements of husbandry, &c. Here I would recommend a timeous provision of bed clothes, and wearing apparel, before you leave your native country. These articles are in great request in Canada, especially in the upper province. The country farmers dress in a coarse plain manner, and those who have

a little stock, sometimes manufacture their own cloathing, but this requires time. Be cautious in using the luxuries of the country, and in overstretching yourself at your labours, many have suffered materially by overheating themselves, and drinking too freely of the water of the River. The common drink is grog—when moderately used, it proves a medicine; but it sometimes proves an introduction to a habit of drinking, which in this, as in every other country, destroys the best constitution, and shortens life. The low price of rum has often encouraged the immediate use of it; many drink too freely, until a complication of diseases render them unfit for the duties of their calling. The emigrant has more need to be upon his guard in this new country, than ever he had in his native soil. It is well known, that the nature of the climate—the provisions—the water, &c. prey upon the constitution; and I may venture to affirm, that the generality of North British emigrants feel this by experience. I would not be found discouraging any person from emigrating to his Majesty's dominions in this quarter of the globe, no, but I consider it to be my duty to put every

person upon his guard, lest for want of proper intelligence, and an idea of the country, he may find reason to repent of leaving his native place.

The accounts we yearly receive, are as various and unequal, as the fortunes of the writers. In this part of the world, as well as in Britain, there are rich and poor, men are not all alike fortunate, nor all alike diligent. But an industrious, healthy man, will succeed not only in procuring a livelihood for himself, but, in a proper situation, leave his successors in an easy way. I know this has been the principal object of many who have emigrated with large families.

Tradesmen will find employment. If they cannot fall in at Quebec or Montreal, let them go upwards, if their circumstances will permit. A willing mind, with a little perseverance, will succeed. Suffer me to remark, that on landing at Quebec, all the money in my possession, was the small sum of 2¼d. I repaired to the market place, and being a mechanical man, found employment immediately, at 5s per day. Let none despair, I continued nearly five years in the country, during which period I succeeded *very well.*

of proper
untry, he
his native

e, are as
es of the
as well as
men are
diligent.
ll succeed
r himself,
successors
been the
emigrated

If they
, let them
ill permit.
rance, will
on landing
possession,
red to the
nical man,
5s per day.
five years
I succeed-